

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910142024203321
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Titolo	Pioneers of Zionism: Hess, Pinsker, Rülf : messianism, settlement policy, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict / / Julius H. Schoeps
Pubbl/distr/stampa	De Gruyter, 2013 Berlin ; ; Boston : , : de Gruyter, , [2013] ©2013
ISBN	3-11-031472-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (168 p.)
Collana	European-Jewish studies controversies ; ; Volume 2
Altri autori (Persone)	SchellenbergMargaret-Ann
Disciplina	320.54095694
Soggetti	Zionism and Judaism Zionism - History - 19th century Zionism - Philosophy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 145-154) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Between Messianism and social utopia / Hess, Moses -- Auto-emancipation and self-help / Pinsker, Leon -- Persecution and relief measures / Rülf, Isaak -- Epilogue, or: the attempt at a conclusion -- Excerpted Passages from the Works of Moses Hess, Leon Pinsker and Isaak Rülf -- Notes -- List of abbreviations -- Glossary -- Bibliography -- List of illustrations -- Index of Names -- Complete PDF
Sommario/riassunto	The emerging Jewish national consciousness in Europe toward the end of the 19th century claims many spiritual fathers, some of which have been seriously underestimated so far. Zionist intellectuals such as Moses Hess, Leon Pinsker and Isaac Rülf were already committed to the self-liberation of the Jewish people long before Theodor Herzl. Their experiences and observations brought them to believe that the emancipation and integration of Jews were not realistically possible in Europe. Instead, they began to think in national and territorial terms. The author explores the question as to what extent religious messianism influenced the ideas of these men and how this reflects in today's collective Israeli consciousness. In a comprehensive epilogue, Julius H. Schoeps critically correlates ideas of messianic salvation,

Zionist pioneer ideals, the settler's movement before and after 1967, and the unsolved conflict between Israelis and Palestinians which has been lasting for over 100 years.
