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Autore	Champion Justin
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Nota di contenuto	Introduction - Locating John Toland -- 1. 'The traffic of books': libraries, friends and conversation -- 2. Publishing reason: John Toland and print and scribal communities -- 3. Reading Scripture: the reception of Christianity not mysterious, 1696-1702 -- 4. Editing the republic: Milton, Harrington and the Williamite monarchy, 1698-1714 -- 5. Anglia libera: Protestant liberties and the Hanoverian succession,

1700-14 -- 6. Sapere aude: 'commonwealth' politics under George I, 1714-22 -- 7. Respublica mosaica: imposters, legislators and civil religion -- 8. De studio theologia: patristic erudition and the attack on Scripture -- 9. 'A complete history of priesthood': The Druids and the origins of ancient virtue -- Conclusion - Writing enlightenment -- Select Tolandiana -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

This volume explores the life, thought and political commitments of the free-thinker John Toland (1670-1722). Studying both his private archive and published works, it illustrates how Toland moved in both subversive and elite political circles in England and abroad ... The book explores the connections between Toland's republican political thought and his irreligious belief about Christian doctrine, the ecclesiastical establishment and divine revelation, arguing that far from being a marginal and insignificant figure, he counted queens, princes and government ministers as his friends and political associates ... Overall, it illustrates how Toland's ideas and influence impacted upon English political life between the 1690's and the 1720's.