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Sommario/riassunto	Transference of orientalist images and identities to the American

landscape and its inhabitants, especially in the West-in other words, portrayal of the West as the "Orient"-has been a common aspect of American cultural history. Place names, such as the Jordan River or Pyramid Lake, offer notable examples, but the imagery and its varied meanings are more widespread and significant. Understanding that range and significance, especially to the western part of the continent, means coming to terms with the complicated, nuanced ideas of the Orient and of the North American continent that
