

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910220078703321
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Titolo	U.S. global defense posture, 1783-2011 // Stacie L. Pettyjohn
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Santa Monica, CA : , : RAND Corporation, , 2012
ISBN	0-8330-7908-5 0-8330-7906-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xx, 124 pages) : illustrations (some color), maps (some color)
Collana	Gale eBooks
Disciplina	355/.033073
Soggetti	Military bases, American - Planning United States Defenses History United States Armed Forces Foreign countries United States Military policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Prepared for the United States Air Force." "Approved for public release; distribution unlimited."
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 111-124).
Nota di contenuto	Framework for U.S. posture -- Extent of the U.S. overseas military presence -- Operational orientation of American forces -- Continental defense, 1783-1815 -- Continental defense and commercialism, 1815-1898 -- Transition period, 1898-1905 -- Oceanic posture -- Hemispheric defense (hemispheric anti-access/area denial) -- Perimeter defense in-depth, 1943-1949 -- Consolidated defense-in-depth -- Transitioning from perimeter defense-in-depth to consolidated defense-in-depth -- Expeditionary defense-in-depth -- Comparing the GDPR to perimeter defense-in-depth -- Findings and recommendations -- Recommendations -- Concluding thoughts.
Sommario/riassunto	This monograph describes the evolution of the U.S. global defense posture from 1783 to the present as the nation grew from a relatively weak and insular regional power into the preeminent global power. As new and unpredictable threats emerge, alliance relationships are revised, and resources decline, past efforts at dealing with similar problems yield important lessons for future decisions.