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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 179-187) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Strange brew - punishment and political ideals -- The whip of utopia : on punishment and political vision -- "Man's life is but a prison" : human reason, secular political order, and the punishments of God -- Earthly divinity : punishment and the requirements of sovereignty -- Severing the sanguinary empire : punishment and early American democratic idealism -- Punishment in liberal regimes -- Hitched to the post : prison labor, choice, and citizenship -- Punishment and the spiral of disorder.
Sommario/riassunto	Most of us think of punishment as an ugly display of power. But punishment also tells us something about the ideals and aspirations of a people and their government. How a state punishes reveals whether or not it is confident in its own legitimacy and sovereignty. Punishment and Political Order examines the questions raised by the state's exercise of punitive power—from what it is about human psychology that desires sanction and order to how the state can administer pain while calling for justice. Keally McBride's book demonstrates punishment's place at the core of political administration and the stated ideals of the polity.

