

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910320751503321
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Titolo	One hundred years at the intersection of chemistry and physics [[electronic resource] ] : the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, 1911-2011 // Jeremiah James ... [et. al.]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; Boston, : De Gruyter, c2011
ISBN	1-283-42998-5 9786613429988 3-11-023954-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (324 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	JamesJeremiah
Disciplina	541/.37072043
Soggetti	Electrochemistry - Research - Germany - History Physics - Research - Germany - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- 1 "under my protection and name...." - Origins and Founding of the Institute -- 2 The "Golden Years" of Haber's Institute -- 3 The "National Socialist Model Enterprise" -- 4 A Patchwork Institute -- 5 Reshaping the Fritz Haber Institute -- 6 Current Era -- Members of the Advisory Board 1981-2011 -- List of References -- Archives -- List of Figures -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This volume, occasioned by the centenary of the Fritz Haber Institute, formerly the Institute for Physical Chemistry and Electrochemistry, covers the institute's scientific and institutional history from its founding until the present. The institute was among the earliest established by the Kaiser Wilhelm Society, and its inauguration was one of the first steps in the development of Berlin-Dahlem into a center for scientific research. Its establishment was made possible by an endowment from Leopold Koppel, granted on the condition that Fritz Haber, well-known for his discovery of a method to synthesize ammonia from its elements, be made its director. The history of the institute has largely paralleled that of 20th-century Germany. It undertook controversial weapons research during World War I, followed

by a "Golden Era" during the 1920's, in spite of financial hardships. Under the National Socialists it experienced a purge of its scientific staff and a diversion of its research into the service of the new regime, accompanied by a breakdown in its international relations. In the immediate aftermath of World War II it suffered crippling material losses, from which it recovered slowly in the post-war era. In 1953, shortly after taking the name of its founding director, the institute joined the fledgling Max Planck Society. During the 1950's and 60's, the institute supported diverse researches into the structure of matter and electron microscopy in a territorially insular and politically precarious West-Berlin. In subsequent decades, as both Berlin and the Max Planck Society underwent significant changes, the institute reorganized around a board of coequal scientific directors and a renewed focus on the investigation of elementary processes on surfaces and interfaces, topics of research that had been central to the work of Fritz Haber and the first "Golden Era" of the institute.

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