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Autore	Luzzatto Simone
Titolo	Discourse on the State of the Jews : Bilingual Edition // Simone Luzzatto; Anna Lissa, Giuseppe Veltri
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Edizione	[Bilingual edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 386 pages) : illustration; digital file(s)
Collana	Studies and Texts in Scepticism ; ; 7
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Soggetti	Jewish philosophy - Italy - Venice - History - 17th century Judaism - Italy - Venice - History - 17th century Jewish History Jüdische Philosophie Philosophie Philosophy Scepticism Skeptizismus Venedig Venice HISTORY / Jewish
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Preface -- Remarks -- Contents -- Discorso Circa Il Stato Degli Hebrei Et In Particular Dimoranti Nell'Inclita Città Di Venetia -- Discourse On The State Of The Jews And In Particular Those Dwelling In The Illustrious City Of Venice -- The Venetian Context Of The Discourse -- Individual Responsibility and Collective Punishment in the Thought of Rabbi Simone Luzzatto -- Jews on Trial and Their Sceptical Attorney: Philosophic Scepticism and Political Thought in Simone Luzzatto's Italian Works -- Bibliography -- Glossary and Index of Names
Sommario/riassunto	In 1638, a small book of no more than 92 pages in octavo was published "appresso Gioanne Calleoni" under the title "Discourse on the

State of the Jews and in particular those dwelling in the illustrious city of Venice." It was dedicated to the Doge of Venice and his counsellors, who are labelled "lovers of Truth." The author of the book was a certain Simone (Sima) Luzzatto, a native of Venice, where he lived and died, serving as rabbi for over fifty years during the course of the seventeenth century. Luzzatto's political thesis is simple and, at the same time, temerarious, if not revolutionary: Venice can put an end to its political decline, he argues, by offering the Jews a monopoly on overseas commercial activity. This plan is highly recommendable because the Jews are "wellsuited for trade," much more so than others (such as "foreigners," for example). The rabbi opens his argument by recalling that trade and usury are the only occupations permitted to Jews. Within the confines of their historical situation, the Venetian Jews became particularly skilled at trade with partners from the Eastern Mediterranean countries. Luzzatto's argument is that this talent could be put at the service of the Venetian government in order to maintain - or, more accurately, recover - its political importance as an intermediary between East and West. He was the first to define the role of the Jews on the basis of their economic and social functions, disregarding the classic categorisation of Judaism's alleged privileged religious status in world history. Nonetheless, going beyond the socio-economic arguments of the book, it is essential to point out Luzzatto's resort to sceptical strategies in order to plead in defence of the Venetian Jews. It is precisely his philosophical and political scepticism that makes Luzzatto's texts so unique. This edition aims to grant access to his works and thought to English-speaking readers and scholars. By approaching his texts from this point of view, the editors hope to open a new path in research into Jewish culture and philosophy that will enable other scholars to develop new directions and new perspectives, stressing the interpenetration between Jews and the surrounding Christian and secular cultures.
