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Titolo	On foot [[electronic resource]] : a history of walking / / Joseph A. Amato
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (342 p.)
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 279-318) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction, walking is talking -- In the beginning was the foot : walking from the origins of bipedal man to marching Roman legions -- Along the road : Medieval pilgrims, beggars, mounted warriors, and the early city walkers -- Put your best foot forward : the rise of upper-class promenading and strolling -- Mind over foot : Romantic walking and rambling -- North American walking : exploring the continent on foot -- City walking : the genesis of the urban pedestrian in nineteenth-century London -- A new footing for the nation : taming and cleaning up revolutionary Paris -- Getting in step : disciplining the mob and marching the masses off to war -- Wheels and cars : the eclipse of the American walker by the motorist -- Conclusion, choose your steps : reflections on the transformation of walking from necessity to choice.
Sommario/riassunto	"I have met with but one or two persons in the course of my life who understand the art of Walking, that is, of taking walks, who had a genius, so to speak, for sauntering." - Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)" Everything is within walking distance if you have the time." - Stephen Wright (1955-) For approximately six million years, humans have walked the earth. This is the story of how, why, and to what effect we put one foot in front of the other. Walking has been the primary mode of locomotion for humans until very recent times when we began to sit and ride-first on horses and in carriages, then trains and bicycles, and finally cars, trucks, buses, and airplanes-rather than go on foot.

The particular way we saunter, clomp, meander, shuffle, plod along, jaunt, tramp, and wander on foot conveys a wealth of information about our identity, condition, and destination. In this fast-stepping social history, Joseph A. Amato takes us on a journey of walking—from the first human migrations to marching Roman legions and ancient Greeks who considered man a "featherless biped"; from trekking medieval pilgrims to strolling courtiers; from urban pavement pounders to ambling window shoppers to suburban mall walkers. Concentrating on walking in Europe and North America and with particular focus on how walking differed according to social class, Amato distinguishes how, where, when, who, what, and under which conditions people moved on foot. He identifies crucial transformations in the history of walking, including the adoption of the horse by the mounted warrior; the rise of public display among European nobility; and the building of roads and transportation systems, which led to the inevitable ascent of the wheel over the foot.
