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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Foundations: "These mountains look too ugly and I see too much work ahead": building the Southern Pacific Company, 1850/1930; Men of vision: Southern Pacific leaders, land, agriculture, and the development of California and the West -- Land settlement: "Stand on the rights of the Company and make a square fight of it": land-grant myths, conflicts with government, and squatterism; The Mussel Slough affair; A land of "well-tilled little farms": land-grant development; Promoting the far West: 1860s-1900s -- Water: "The satisfactory supply is yet undiscovered": the Southern Pacific as a pioneer water developer; "A great encouragement for others": private irrigation; "This splendid country is to be reclaimed": public irrigation; "The government is hard to deal with": federal reclamation -- Agriculture: "Evangel train": scientific agriculture; "The damndest railroading you ever heard of": marketing the produce of western farms -- Conservation: "Shall this destruction proceed?": wilderness preservation; "Putting our properties on the most conservative and scientific basis": resource conservation --

Epilogue -- A note on Southern Pacific Company manuscript sources.

Sommario/riassunto

The only major U.S. railroad to be operated by westerners and the only railroad built from west to east, the Southern Pacific acquired a unique history and character. It also acquired a reputation, especially in California, as a railroad that people loved to hate.