

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450536903321
Autore	Handley William R.
Titolo	Marriage, violence, and the nation in the American literary West / / William R. Handley [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2002
ISBN	1-107-13451-X 1-280-16140-X 0-511-12081-8 1-139-14837-0 0-511-06102-1 0-511-05469-6 0-511-30829-9 0-511-48552-2 0-511-06948-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 261 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in American literature and culture ; ; 132
Disciplina	810.9/3278
Soggetti	American literature - West (U.S.) - History and criticism Novelists, American - Homes and haunts - West (U.S.) Domestic fiction, American - History and criticism National characteristics, American, in literature Western stories - History and criticism Frontier and pioneer life in literature Family violence in literature Women pioneers in literature Marriage in literature Violence in literature West (U.S.) Intellectual life West (U.S.) In literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 234-255) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Western unions -- Turner's rhetorical frontier -- Marrying for race and nation: Wister's omniscience and omissions -- Polygamy and empire:

Grey's distinctions -- Unwedded west: Cather's divides -- Accident and destiny: Fitzgerald's fantastic geography -- Promises and betrayals: Joan Didion and Wallace Stegner.

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## Sommario/riassunto

In *Marriage, Violence and the Nation in the American Literary West*, William R. Handley examines literary interpretations of the Western American past. Handley argues that although scholarship provides a narrative of western history that counters optimistic story of frontier individualism by focusing on the victims of conquest, twentieth-century American fiction tells a different story of intra-ethnic violence surrounding marriages and families. He examines works of historiography, as well as writing by Zane Grey, Willa Cather, Wallace Stegner and Joan Didion among others, to argue that these works highlight white Americans' anxiety about what happens to American 'character' when domestic enemies such as Indians and Mormon polygamists, against whom the nation had defined itself in the nineteenth century, no longer threaten its homes. Handley explains that once its enemies are gone, imperialism brings violence home in retrospective narratives that allegorise national pasts and futures through intimate relationships.

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