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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- 1. The burning of Louvain -- 2. The radicalization of warfare -- 3. The warriors -- 4. German singularity? -- 5. Culture and war -- 6. Trench warfare and its consequences -- 7. War, bodies, and minds -- 8. Victory, trauma, and post-war disorder -- Conclusion -- Historiographical note -- Appendix: Hague Convention (IV) Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land (1907).
Sommario/riassunto	On 26 August 1914 the world-famous university library in the Belgian town of Louvain was looted and destroyed by German troops. The international community reacted in horror - 'Holocaust at Louvain' proclaimed the Daily Mail - and the behaviour of the Germans at Louvain came to be seen as the beginning of a different style of war, without the rules that had governed military conflict up to that point - a more total war, in which enemy civilians and their entire culture were

now 'legitimate' targets. Yet the destruction at Louvain was simply one symbolic moment in a wider wave of cultural destruction.

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