1. Record Nr. UNINA9910451961403321 Autore McMeekin Sean <1974-> Titolo The red millionaire [[electronic resource]]: a political biography of Willi Munzenberg, Moscow's secret propaganda tsar in the West // Sean McMeekin New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2005 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-281-72219-7 9786611722197 0-300-13009-0 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (1 online resource (viii, 397 p.)): ill Disciplina 327.1247/0092 В Soggetti Communists - Germany Propaganda, Communist - History Communism - Germany - History - 20th century Communism - Soviet Union - History - 20th century Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction: who in the world is Willi Munzenberg? -- A call to arms --The red millionaire -- Flight. Sommario/riassunto Willy Münzenberg-an Old Bolshevik who was also a self-promoting tycoon-became one of the most influential Communist operatives in Europe between the World Wars. He created a variety of front groups that recruited well-known political and cultural figures to work on behalf of the Soviet Union and its causes, and he ran an international media empire that churned out enormous amounts of propaganda and raised money for Communist concerns. Sean McMeekin tells

Münzenberg's extraordinary story, arguing persuasively that his

Communist left, enraged the right, and helped feed a cycle that

financial chicanery and cynical propaganda efforts weakened the non-

culminated in Nazism.Drawing extensively on recently opened Moscow archives, McMeekin describes how Münzenberg parlayed his friendship with Lenin into a personal fortune and how Münzenberg's mysterious

financial manipulations outraged Social Democrats and lent rhetorical ammunition to the Nazis. His book sheds new light on Comintern finances, propaganda strategy, the use of front organizations to infiltrate non-Communist circles, and the breakdown of democracy in the Weimar Republic. It is also an engrossing tale of a Communist con man whose name once aroused fear, loathing, and admiration around the world.