

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452474103321
Autore	Banner Stuart <1963->
Titolo	American property [[electronic resource]] : a history of how, why, and what we own // Stuart Banner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-674-06082-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (384 p.)
Classificazione	PU 5350
Disciplina	330.1/7
Soggetti	Property - United States - History Right of property - United States - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Lost property -- The rise of intellectual property -- A bundle of rights -- Owning the news -- People, not things -- Owning sound -- Owning fame -- From the tenement to the condominium -- The law of the land -- Owning wavelengths -- The new property -- Owning life -- Property resurgent -- The end of property?.
Sommario/riassunto	In America, we are eager to claim ownership: our homes, our ideas, our organs, even our own celebrity. But beneath our nation's proprietary longing looms a troublesome question: what does it mean to own something? More simply: what is property? The question is at the heart of many contemporary controversies, including disputes over who owns everything from genetic material to indigenous culture to music and film on the Internet. To decide if and when genes or culture or digits are a kind of property that can be possessed, we must grapple with the nature of property itself. How does it originate? What purposes does it serve? Is it a natural right or one created by law? Accessible and mercifully free of legal jargon, American Property reveals the perpetual challenge of answering these questions, as new forms of property have emerged in response to technological and cultural change, and as ideas about the appropriate scope of government regulation have shifted. This first comprehensive history of property in the United States is a masterly guided tour through a contested human institution that touches all aspects of our lives and desires. Stuart Banner shows that

property exists to serve a broad set of purposes, constantly in flux, that render the idea of property itself inconstant. Despite our ideals of ownership, property has always been a means toward other ends. What property signifies and what property is, we come to see, has consistently changed to match the world we want to acquire.
