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	Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; Abbreviations; Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION: RECOGNIZING FORMS; Chapter 2 BIBLICAL PATTERNS; Chapter 3 GRAECO-ROMAN THEORIES OF FORM; Chapter 4 EARLY AND MEDIAEVAL ANALYSES; Chapter 5 POSTMEDIAEVAL EXAMINATIONS OF FORM; Chapter 6 FORMAL ANALYSIS DURING THE REIGN OF HISTORIOGRAPHY (c. 1775-1875); Chapter 7 'FORM' AFTER 1875 OUTSIDE BIBLICAL STUDIES; Chapter 8 JEWISH ANALYSES OF FORM, c. 1875-1965; Chapter 9 ROMAN CATHOLIC VIEWS OF LITERARY FORM, c. 1875-1965; Chapter 10 THE BIBLE AS LITERATURE: PROTESTANT ANALYSES LARGELY BY OR FOR NONSPECIALISTS, c. 1875-1965 Chapter 11 GUNKEL IN HIS CONTEXTCHAPTER 12 FORM IN PROTESTANT NEW TESTAMENT SCHOLARSHIP, c. 1875-1965; Chapter 13 FORM IN SPECIALIST PROTESTANT STUDIES OF THE HEBREW BIBLE, c. 1915-1965; Chapter 14 CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS; Bibliography; Index of References; Index of Authors
	Sommario/riassunto	This magnum opus is not another catalogue of the forms of biblical literature, but a deeply reflected account of the significance of form itself. Buss writes out of his experience in Western philosophy and the intricate involvement of biblical criticism in philosophical history. Equally, biblical criticism and the development of notions of form are

related to social contexts, whether from the side of the aristocracy	
(tending towards generality) or of the bourgeois (tending towards	
particularity) or of an inclusive society (favouring a relational view).	
Form criticism, in Buss's conception, is	