

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454766303321
Autore	Moe Nelson <1961->
Titolo	The view from Vesuvius [[electronic resource] ] : Italian culture and the southern question // Nelson Moe
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif., : University of California Press, c2002
ISBN	0-520-93982-4 1-59734-978-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (369 p.)
Collana	Studies on the history of society and culture ; ; 46
Disciplina	945/.708
Soggetti	Public opinion - Italy, Northern Stereotypes (Social psychology) - Italy Electronic books. Italy, Southern Civilization Public opinion Italy, Southern Social conditions 19th century Public opinion Italy, Southern Politics and government 19th century Public opinion
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 (p. 301-335) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: How Did Southern Italy Become "the South"? -- I. Imagining the South. 1750-1850 -- II. Representing the South in the Risorgimento. 1825-1861 -- III. Representing the South in Postunification Italy. 1870-1885 -- Conclusion: What the South Enables Us to Say -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The vexed relationship between the two parts of Italy, often referred to as the Southern Question, has shaped that nation's political, social, and cultural life throughout the twentieth century. But how did southern Italy become "the south," a place and people seen as different from and inferior to the rest of the nation? Writing at the rich juncture of literature, history, and cultural theory, Nelson Moe explores how Italy's Mezzogiorno became both backward and picturesque, an alternately troubling and fascinating borderland between Europe and its others. This finely crafted book shows that the Southern Question is far from just an Italian issue, for its origins are deeply connected to the formation of European cultural identity between the mid-eighteenth

and late nineteenth centuries. Moe examines an exciting range of unfamiliar texts and visual representations including travel writing, political discourse, literary texts, and etchings to illuminate the imaginative geography that shaped the divide between north and south. His narrative moves from a broad examination of the representation of the south in European culture to close readings of the literary works of Leopardi and Giovanni Verga. This groundbreaking investigation into the origins of the modern vision of the Mezzogiorno is made all the more urgent by the emergence of separatism in Italy in the 1990's.

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