

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455005203321
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Titolo	Fictions of U.S. history [[electronic resource]] : a theory and four illustrations / / Frances Richardson Keller
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Bloomington, : Indiana University Press, c2002
ISBN	1-282-06274-3 9780253108861 9786612062742 0-253-10886-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (198 p.)
Disciplina	973/.01
Soggetti	Fictions, Theory of Ideology - Social aspects - United States Patriarchy Electronic books. United States Historiography United States History Philosophy
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	Fictions and the missions of history: our fictions, our missions, our selves -- The grandest fiction -- The scramble after the Civil War -- From Mormon polygamy to American monogamy: shifting fictions in the life of a society -- Eleanor Roosevelt: changing fictions in the life of an individual.
Sommario/riassunto	Fictions of History offers a new definition of the term "fictions." A fiction is not merely the imaginative literature we treasure in works of novelists, dramatists, and poets. It is a powerful, driving idea that enters the life of an individual, the course a whole society travels, and the stories historians tell about the human past. In many dimensions, fictions affect every person on planet Earth. We all live lives based on fictions. Frances Richardson Keller chooses fascinating examples