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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Colonials, continentals, and federals : the origins of American military professionalism -- Tactical expertise and the U.S. Army before the war with Mexico -- The old army's vindication : the Mexican war -- Tactical continuity in the decade before the Civil War -- The beginning of the end : the old army on the precipice -- War in earnest : the first battles of 1861 -- The Peninsula : Lee and McClellan leave their legacies -- Morale, cohesion, and competence from Second Bull Run to Missionary Ridge -- Decisions east and west : the end of the Civil War.
Sommario/riassunto	Most Civil War generals were graduates of West Point, and many of them helped transform the U.S. Army from what was little better than an armed mob that performed poorly during the War of 1812 into the competent fighting force that won the Mexican War. Wayne Wei-siang Hsieh demonstrates how the "old army" transformed itself into a professional military force after 1814, and, more important, how "old army" methods profoundly shaped the conduct of the Civil War.

