

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456864803321
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Titolo	A nation within a nation [[electronic resource]] : organizing African-American communities before the Civil War / / John Ernest
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : Ivan R. Dee, Inc., c2011
ISBN	1-283-00945-5 9786613009456 1-56663-917-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (229 p.)
Collana	American Ways Series
Disciplina	973.0496073 973/.0496073
Soggetti	African Americans - Societies, etc - History - 19th century African American fraternal organizations - History - 19th century African American churches - History - 19th century African Americans - History - 19th century African American schools - History - 19th century African American press - History - 19th century African Americans - Race identity - History - 19th century African Americans - Social conditions - 19th century African Americans - Education - History - 19th century Community organization - United States - History - 19th century Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; Chapter 1. Cities on the Hill: Organizing Communities; Chapter 2. Mutual Interest, Mutual Benefit, Mutual Relief; Chapter 3. "Plain and Simple Gospel"; Chapter 4. "The United Wisdom of the World"; Chapter 5. "The Collected Wisdom of Our People"; Chapter 6. Breaking "The Chains of Ignorance"; Chapter 8. Postscript; A Note on Sources; Index; About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	John Ernest offers a comprehensive survey of the broad-ranging and influential African American organizations and networks formed in the North in the late eighteenth century through the end of the Civil War.

He examines fraternal organizations, churches, conventions, mutual aid benefit and literary societies, educational organizations, newspapers, and magazines. Ernest argues these organizations demonstrate how African Americans self-definition was not solely determined by slavery as they tried to create organizations in the hope of creating a community.</p>
