

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457163103321
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Titolo	Collision course [[electronic resource]] : Ronald Reagan, the air traffic controllers, and the strike that changed America // Joseph A. McCartin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-19-025450-5 1-283-29703-5 9786613297037 0-19-983679-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (499 p.)
Disciplina	331.892/81387740426097309048
Soggetti	Air Traffic Controllers' Strike, U.S., 1981 Collective bargaining - Aeronautics - United States Collective bargaining - United States Electronic books.
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	Cover; Contents; GETTING THE PICTURE; 1 THE MAIN BANG; 2 PUSHING BACK; 3 WHEELS UP; 4 CONFLICTION; 5 COURSE CORRECTION; 6 FLIGHT CEILING; 7 TURBULENCE; 8 DOWN THE TUBES; 9 PILOT ERROR; 10 DEAD RECKONING; 11 TRADING PAINT; 12 ALUMINUM RAIN; 13 DEBRIS FIELD; BLACK BOX; Acknowledgments; Abbreviations Used in the Notes; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In August 1981, the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) called an illegal strike. The new president, Ronald Reagan, fired the strikers, establishing a reputation for both decisiveness and hostility to organized labor. As Joseph A. McCartin writes, the strike was the culmination of two decades of escalating conflict between controllers and the government that stemmed from the high-pressure nature of the job and the controllers' inability to negotiate with their employer over vital issues. PATCO's fall not only ushered in a long period of labor decline; it also served as a