

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457200403321
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Titolo	Shakespeare and republicanism // Andrew Hadfield [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2005
ISBN	1-107-14480-9 1-280-22392-8 0-511-13017-1 0-511-19996-1 0-511-13054-6 0-511-30045-X 0-511-48360-0 0-511-12901-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 363 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	822.3/3
Soggetti	Republicanism - England - History - 16th century Republicanism in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 314-355) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Was Shakespeare a republican? -- Republican culture in the 1590s -- Forms of republican culture in late sixteenth-century England -- Literature and republicanism in the age of Shakespeare -- Shakespeare and Republicanism -- Shakespeare's early republican career -- Shakespeare's Pharsalia: the first tetralogy -- The beginning of the republic: Venus and Lucrece -- The end of the republic: Titus Andronicus and Julius Caesar -- The radical Hamlet -- After the republican moment.
Sommario/riassunto	This groundbreaking work, first published in 2005, reveals exactly how Shakespeare was influenced by contemporary strands in political thought that were critical of the English crown and constitution. Shakespeare has often been seen as a conservative political thinker characterised by an over-riding fear of the 'mob'. Hadfield argues instead that Shakespeare's writing emerged out of an intellectual milieu

fascinated by republican ideas. From the 1590s onwards, he explored republican themes in his poetry and plays: political assassination, elected government, alternative constitutions, and, perhaps most importantly of all, the problem of power without responsibility. Beginning with Shakespeare's apocalyptic representation of civil war in the Henry VI plays, Hadfield provides a series of powerful new readings of Shakespeare and his time. For anyone interested in Shakespeare and Renaissance culture, this book is required reading.
