Record Nr. UNINA9910462395003321 Autore Herzig Rebecca M. <1971-> Titolo Suffering For Science: Reason and Sacrifice in Modern America // Rebecca M. Herzig Pubbl/distr/stampa New Brunswick, N.J.:,: Rutgers University Press,, 2005 ©2005 **ISBN** 1-283-54341-9 9786613855862 0-8135-3764-9 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (207 p.) Disciplina 509.73/09/034 Soggetti Self - History - 19th century Human body - Social aspects - United States - History - 19th century Science - Social aspects - United States - History - 19th century Electronic books. United States History 19th century 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. Willing captives -- The bonds of science -- Purists -- Explorers --Nota di contenuto Martyrs -- Barbarians. Sommario/riassunto From gruesome self-experimentation to exhausting theoretical calculations, stories abound of scientists willfully surrendering health, well-being, and personal interests for the sake of their work. What accounts for the prevalence of this coupling of knowledge and painand for the peculiar assumption that science requires such suffering? In this lucid and absorbing history, Rebecca M. Herzig explores the rise of an ethic of "self-sacrifice" in American science. Delving into some of the more bewildering practices of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era, she describes when and how science-the supposed standard of all things judicious and disinterested-came to rely on an enthralled investigator willing to embrace toil, danger, and even lethal

dismemberment. With attention to shifting racial, sexual, and

transnational politics, Herzig examines the suffering scientist as a way to understand the rapid transformation of American life between the

Civil War and World War I. Suffering for Science reveals more than the passion evident in many scientific vocations; it also illuminates a nation's changing understandings of the purposes of suffering, the limits of reason, and the nature of freedom in the aftermath of slavery.