1. Record Nr. UNINA9910462819803321 Autore Follmer Moritz **Titolo** Individuality and modernity in Berlin: self and society from Weimar to the Wall / / Moritz Follmer [[electronic resource]] Cambridge: ,: Cambridge University Press, , 2013 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-139-61108-9 1-107-23764-5 1-139-61294-8 1-139-62224-2 1-283-94324-7 1-139-62596-9 1-139-60928-9 1-139-38097-4 1-139-61666-8 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (ix, 312 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Collana New studies in European history Disciplina 943/.155087 Soggetti Individuality - Germany - Berlin - History - 20th century Self - Social aspects - Germany - Berlin - History - 20th century Risk - Social aspects - Germany - Berlin - History - 20th century Agent (Philosophy) - Social aspects - Germany - Berlin - History - 20th century Social isolation - Germany - Berlin - History - 20th century City and town life - Germany - Berlin - History - 20th century Social change - Germany - Berlin - History - 20th century Politics and culture - Germany - Berlin - History - 20th century Berlin (Germany) Social life and customs 20th century Berlin (Germany) Social conditions 20th century 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 and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction -- Part I. Weimar Berlin: 1. Risk, isolation and unstable selfhood; 2. Flexibility, authenticity and consumption; 3. Reform,

scandal and extremism -- Part II. Nazi Berlin: 4. Redefining legitimate

## Sommario/riassunto

individuality; 5. Jewish Berliners' ambiguous quest for agency; 6. Heroism, withdrawal and privatist loyalty -- Part III. Post-War and Cold-War Berlin: 7. Defeat, self-help and the dissociation from Nazism; 8. Socialist ambitions and individualist expectations; 9. Antitotalitarianism, domesticity and ambivalent modernity -- Conclusion. Moritz Follmer traces the history of individuality in Berlin from the late 1920s to the construction of the Berlin Wall in August 1961. The demand to be recognised as an individual was central to metropolitan society, as were the spectres of risk, isolation and loss of agency. This was true under all five regimes of the period, through economic depression, war, occupation and reconstruction. The guest for individuality could put democracy under pressure, as in the Weimar years, and could be satisfied by a dictatorship, as was the case in the Third Reich. It was only in the course of the 1950s, when liberal democracy was able to offer superior opportunities for consumerism, that individuality finally claimed the mantle. Individuality and Modernity in Berlin proposes a fresh perspective on twentieth-century Berlin that will engage readers with an interest in the German metropolis as well as European urban history more broadly.