

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463564103321
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Titolo	The dream life of citizens [[electronic resource]] : late Victorian novels and the fantasy of the state / / Zarena Aslami
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Fordham University Press, 2012
ISBN	0-8232-4203-X 0-8232-4660-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (199 p.)
Disciplina	823/.8093581
Soggetti	English fiction - 19th century - History and criticism Politics and literature - Great Britain - History - 19th century Social problems in literature State, The, in literature Electronic books. Afghanistan In literature
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	Introduction : the lyricism of the State -- An imperial origin story : aloof rule in Schreiner's The story of an African farm -- "Rather a geographical expression than a country" : State fantasy and the production of Victorian Afghanistan -- The rise of The State as a sympathetic liberal subject in Hardy's The woodlanders -- The space of optimism : State fantasy and the case of Gissing's The odd women -- Hysterical citizenship in Grand's The heavenly twins -- Coda.
Sommario/riassunto	Scholars have long argued that nations, as imagined communities, are constituted through the incitement of feelings and the operations of fantasy. Can we say the same about the set of disciplinary and regulatory institutions that we call the state? Can we think of it as constituted by feelings and fantasies, too? Zarena Aslami argues that late Victorian novels certainly did. Revisiting major works by Olive Schreiner, Thomas Hardy, and George Gissing, among others, Aslami shows how novels dramatized the feelings and fantasies of a culture that was increasingly optimistic, as well as increasingl

