

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910464277003321
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Titolo	The Consequences of Syria [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : Hoover Institution Press, 2014
ISBN	0-8179-1778-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (76 p.)
Collana	The Great Unraveling: The Remaking of th
Disciplina	900
Soggetti	Syria -- History -- Civil War, 2011- Regions & Countries - Asia & the Middle East History & Archaeology Middle East Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Front Cover; Title Page; Copyright; Contents; Series Foreword; The Consequences of Syria; I: Looking at Syria, Seeing Iraq; II: History's Seeds; III: The Devil We Know; IV: The Jihadist Alibi; About the Author; About the Hoover Institution's Herbert and Jane Dwight Working Group on Islamism and the International Order; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Lee Smith analyzes the current US administration's stance on Syria, questioning whether it will build the foundations of a new Middle East or usher in an era of instability that will affect the entire world. The author contends that the many apparent shifts in the administration's Syria policy were part of a messaging campaign intended to camouflage President Obama's determination to stay out of the Syrian conflict. Smith concludes that the next White House will have to deal with the region that this one will hand off to it, containing more violence, betrayed allies, emboldened adversaries, an