

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910466110003321
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Titolo	The Amish : a concise introduction / / Steven M. Nolt
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Baltimore, Maryland : , : Johns Hopkins University Press, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	1-4214-1957-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (153 p.)
Collana	Young Center Books in Anabaptist and Pietist Studies
Disciplina	289.7/3
Soggetti	Amish - United States - Social life and customs Amish - History Electronic books.
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	1. Meet the Amish -- 2. Amish roots -- 3. Living the old order -- 4. Community and church -- 5. Rumspringa : Amish gone wild? -- 6. Family and schooling -- 7. Work and technology -- 8. The Amish and their neighbors -- 9. Amish images in modern America -- Appendix A. Amish spirituality -- Appendix B. Related groups.
Sommario/riassunto	There seems to be no end to our fascination with the Amish, a religious minority that has both placed itself outside the mainstream of American culture and flourished within it. Yet most people know very little about the nuanced relationship the Amish have with society or their own communities. Drawing on more than twenty years of fieldwork and collaborative research, Steven M. Nolt's <i>The Amish: A Concise Introduction</i> is a compact but richly detailed portrait of Amish life. In fewer than 150 pages, readers will come away with a clear understanding of the complexities of these simple people. Writing in engaging and accessible language, Nolt explains how the Amish at once operate within modern America and stand very much apart from the world. Arguing that Amish life is shaped equally by internal and external social, political, and economic contexts, Nolt explores Amish identity as emerging from a complex cultural negotiation with modernity. He takes on much-hyped topics such as Rumspringa and reveals the distinctive Amish approach to technology. He also explains

how Amish principles stand in contrast to contemporary American values, including rational efficiency, large-scale organization, and Western notions of individuality. Authoritative, informative, and illustrated, this guide provides a vivid introduction to a way of life many find fascinating but few truly understand.
