

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910480307803321
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Titolo	Rivers, memory, and nation-building : a history of the Volga and Mississippi rivers / / Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[New York, New York] : , : Berghahn Books, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-78238-432-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (203 p.)
Collana	Environment in History: International Perspectives ; ; Volume 5
Disciplina	947.4
Soggetti	Rivers - Social aspects - Russia Rivers - Social aspects - United States Collective memory - Russia - History Collective memory - United States - History Nationalism - Russia - History Nationalism - United States - History Human ecology - Russia - History Human ecology - United States - History Electronic books. Volga River (Russia) History Mississippi River History
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	Contents; Illustrations; Preface; Introduction; Chapter 1. The Early Years; Chapter 2. Rivers as Nation-Builders; Chapter 3. Rivers and Modernization; Chapter 4. Moscow-A Port to Five Seas; Chapter 5. Navigating the Mississippi; Epilogue
Sommario/riassunto	Rivers figure prominently in a nation's historical memory, and the Volga and Mississippi have special importance in Russian and American cultures. Beginning in the pre-modern world, both rivers served as critical trade routes connecting cultures in an extensive exchange network, while also sustaining populations through their surrounding wetlands and bottomlands. In modern times, "Mother Volga" and the "Father of Waters" became integral parts of national identity,

contributing to a sense of Russian and American exceptionalism.  
Furthermore, both rivers were drafted into service as the means t

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