

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910480358703321
Autore	Morgenstern Mira
Titolo	Conceiving a nation : the development of political discourse in the Hebrew Bible // Mira Morgenstern
Pubbl/distr/stampa	University Park, Pennsylvania : , : The Pennsylvania State University Press, , [2009] ©2009
ISBN	0-271-04964-2 0-271-03653-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (240 p.)
Disciplina	221.832
Soggetti	Hebrew language - Discourse analysis Rhetoric - Political aspects Political oratory Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [203]-222) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Joseph: The Politics of Dreaming -- 2. Moses: The Politics of Alienation -- 3. Ruth: The Politics of Difference -- 4. Jotham: The Politics of Parable -- 5. Samson: The Politics of Riddling -- 6. Esther: The Politics of Metaphor -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Current conflicts in both national and international arenas have undermined the natural, organic concept of nationhood as conventionally espoused in the nineteenth century. <i>Conceiving a Nation</i> argues that the modern understanding of the nation as a contested concept—as the product of a fluid and ongoing process of negotiation open to a range of livable solutions—is actually rooted in the Bible. This book draws attention to the contribution that the Bible makes to political discourse about the nation. The Bible is particularly well suited to this open-ended discourse because of its own nature as a text whose ambiguity and laconic quality render it constantly open to new interpretations and applicable to changing circumstances. The Bible offers a pluralistic understanding of different models of political

development for different nations, and it depicts altering concepts of national identity over time. In this book, Morgenstern reads the Bible as the source of a dynamic critique of the ideas that are conventionally considered to be fundamental to national identity, treating in successive chapters the ethnic (Ruth), the cultural (Samson), the political (Jotham), and the territorial (Esther). Throughout, she explores a number of common themes, such as the relationship of women to political authority and the “strangeness” of Israelite political existence. In the Conclusion, she elucidates how biblical analysis can aid in recognition of modern claims to nationhood.
