

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910495864703321
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Titolo	The comparative imagination : on the history of racism, nationalism, and social movements // George M. Fredrickson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif., : University of California Press, 1997
ISBN	0-520-92547-5 0-585-04774-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (241 pages)
Disciplina	305.8/00973
Soggetti	Racism - United States - History Racism - South Africa - History Black nationalism - United States - History Black nationalism - South Africa - History African Americans - Civil rights - History Black people - Civil rights - South Africa - History Gender & Ethnic Studies Social Sciences Ethnic & Race Studies History United States Race relations South Africa Race relations
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	The status of comparative history (1980) -- The frontier in South African and American history -- From exceptionalism to variability: recent developments in cross-national comparative history -- Planters, junkers, and Pomeschiki -- Understanding racism: reflections of a comparative historian -- Race and empire in liberal thought: the legacy of tocqueville -- Black-white relations since emancipation: the search for a comparative perspective -- Reform and revolution in American and South African freedom struggles -- Prophets of black liberation -- Nonviolent resistance to white supremacy: the american civil rights movement and the South African defiance campaigns -- From black

power to black consciousness.

Sommario/riassunto

In this collection of essays, an eminent American historian of race relations discusses issues central to our understanding of the history of racism, the role of racism, and the possibilities for justice in contemporary society. George M. Fredrickson provides an eloquent and vigorous examination of race relations in the United States and South Africa and at the same time illuminates the emerging field of comparative history-history that is explicitly cross-cultural in its comparisons of nations, eras, or social structures. Taken together, these thought-provoking, accessible essays-several never before published-bring new precision and depth to our understanding of racism and justice, both historically and for society today. The first group of essays in *The Comparative Imagination* summarizes and evaluates the cross-national comparative history written in the past fifty years. These essays pay particular attention to comparative work on slavery and race relations, frontiers, nation-building and the growth of modern welfare states, and class and gender relations. The second group of essays represents some of Fredrickson's own explorations into the cross-cultural study of race and racism. Included are new essays covering such topics as the theoretical and cross-cultural meaning of racism, the problem of race in liberal thought, and the complex relationship between racism and state-based nationalism. The third group contains Fredrickson's recent work on anti-racist and black liberation movements in the United States and South Africa, especially in the period since World War II. In addition, Fredrickson's provocative introduction breaks significant new intellectual ground, outlining a justification for the methods of comparative history in light of such contemporary intellectual trends as the revival of narrative history and the predominance of postmodern thought.
