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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 177-186) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	The geography of the Jewish imagination : po-lin among trees with leaves from the Gemara -- Legends of acceptance : segregation versus involvement -- The legend of Abraham the Jew, King of Poland -- The legend of Esther the Jewess and King Casimir the Great of Poland -- My eyes shed tears, because the enemy has overcome : the transformation of legends of origin into legends of destruction.
Sommario/riassunto	The first appearance of Jews in Poland and their adventures during their early years of settlement in the country are concealed in undocumented shadows of history. What survived are legends of origin that early chroniclers, historians, writers, and folklore scholars transcribed, thus contributing to their preservation. According to the legendary chronicles Jews resided in Poland for a millennium and developed a vibrant community. Haya Bar-Itzhak examines the legends of origin of the Jews of Poland and discloses how the community creates its own chronicle, how it structures and consolidates its identity through stories about its founding, and how this identity varies from age to age. Bar-Itzhak also examines what happened to these legends after the extermination of Polish Jewry during the Holocaust, when the human

space they describe no longer exists except in memory. For the Polish Jews after the Holocaust, the legends of origin undergo a fascinating transformation into legends of destruction. Jewish Poland-Legends of Origin brings to light the more obscure legends of origin as well as those already well known. This book will be of interest to scholars in folklore studies as well as to scholars of Judaic history and culture.

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