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Titolo	Formative Fictions : Nationalism, Cosmopolitanism, and the "Bildungsroman" // Tobias Boes
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (214 p.)
Collana	Signale : modern German letters, cultures, and thought
Disciplina	809.3/9354
Soggetti	Comparative literature - European and German Comparative literature - German and European City and town life in literature Nationalism and literature European fiction - History and criticism German fiction - History and criticism Bildungsromans - History and criticism 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	The limits of national form : normativity and performativity in Bildungsroman criticism -- Apprenticeship of the novel : Goethe and the invention of history -- Epigonal consciousness : Stendhal, Immermann, and the "problem of generations" around 1830 -- Long-distance fantasies : Freytag, Eliot, and national literature in the age of empire -- Urban vernaculars : Joyce, Doblin, and the "individuating rhythm" of modernity -- Conclusion : apocalipsis cum figuris : Thomas Mann and the Bildungsroman at the ends of time.
Sommario/riassunto	The Bildungsroman, or "novel of formation," has long led a paradoxical life within literary studies, having been construed both as a peculiarly German genre, a marker of that country's cultural difference from Western Europe, and as a universal expression of modernity. In

Formative Fictions, Tobias Boes argues that the dual status of the Bildungsroman renders this novelistic form an elegant way to negotiate the diverging critical discourses surrounding national and world literature. Since the late eighteenth century, authors have employed the story of a protagonist's journey into maturity as a powerful tool with which to facilitate the creation of national communities among their readers. Such attempts always stumble over what Boes calls "cosmopolitan remainders," identity claims that resist nationalism's aim for closure in the normative regime of the nation-state. These cosmopolitan remainders are responsible for the curiously hesitant endings of so many novels of formation. In *Formative Fictions*, Boes presents readings of a number of novels—Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*, Karl Leberecht Immermann's *The Epigones*, Gustav Freytag's *Debit and Credit*, Alfred Döblin's *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, and Thomas Mann's *Doctor Faustus* among them—that have always been felt to be particularly "German" and compares them with novels by such authors as George Eliot and James Joyce to show that what seem to be markers of national particularity can productively be read as topics of world literature.
