

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910552778503321
Titolo	Social Control in Europe : Volume 2, 1800-2000 / . Volume 1800-2000 // edited by Clive Emsley, Eric Johnson, and Pieter Spierenburg 1800-2000 / . Volume
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Baltimore, Maryland : , : Project Muse, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-8142-7301-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 PDF (vii, 445 pages) :) : illustrations
Collana	History of crime and criminal justice series
Disciplina	303.3/3/094
Soggetti	Social control - Europe - History Electronic books. Europe Social conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 395-439) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Acknowledgments -- Social Control and History : An Introduction / Pieter Spierenburg. -- Part One : Communities and Entrepreneurs -- 1. Social Control and Forms of Working-Class Sociability in French Industrial Towns between the Mid-Nineteenth and the Mid-Twentieth Centuries / Jean-Paul Burdy -- 2. Control at the Workplace : Paternalism Reinvented in Victorian Britain / Haia Shpayer-Makov -- 3. Social Change, Popular Movements, and Social Control in Scandinavia, 1864-1914 / Ulf Drugge -- 4. Social Control in Belgium : The Catholic Factor / Jan Art -- 5. Priceless Children? Penitentiary Congresses Debating Childhood : A Quest for Social Order in Europe, 1846-1895 / Chris G.T.M. Leonards -- 6. Caring or Controlling? The East End of London in the 1880s and 1890s / Rosemary O'Day -- 7. Community and Social Control : An Enquiry into the Dutch Experience / Vincent Sleebe -- Part Two : Policing and the State : Liberal vs. Totalitarian Regimes -- 8. Control and Legitimacy : The Police in Comparative Perspective Since circa 1800 / Clive Emsley -- 9. Policing the Poor in England and France, 1850-1900 / Paul Lawrence -- 10. The Police, Gender, and Social Control : German Servants in Dutch Towns, 1918-1940 / Leo Lucassen -- 11. Some Thoughts on Social Control in "Totalitarian" Society : The Case of Nazi Germany / Eric A. Johnson --

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Sommario/riassunto

This two-volume collection of essays provides a comprehensive examination of the idea of social control in the history of Europe. The uniqueness of these volumes lies in two main areas. First, the contributors compare methods of social control on many levels, from police to shaming, church to guilds. Second, they look at these formal and informal institutions as two-way processes. Unlike many studies of social control in the past, the scholars here examine how individuals and groups that are being controlled necessarily participate in and shape the manner in which they are regulated. Hardly passive victims of discipline and control, these folks instead claimed agency in that process, accepting and resisting--and thus molding the controls under which they functioned. In both volumes, an introduction outlines the origins and the continuing value of the concept of social control. The introductions are followed by two substantive sections. The essays in part one of volume 1 focus on the interplay of ecclesiastical institutions and the emerging states; those in part two of volume 1 look more explicitly at discipline from a bottom-up perspective. The essays in part one of volume 2 explore the various means by which communities--generally working-class communities--in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Europe were subjected to forms of discipline in the workplace, by the church, and by philanthropic housing organizations. It notes also how the communities themselves generated their own forms of internal control. Part two of volume 2 focuses on various policing institutions, exploring in particular the question of how liberal and totalitarian regimes differed in their styles of control, repression, and surveillance.
