

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777849203321
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Titolo	Trade secrets [[electronic resource]] : intellectual piracy and the origins of American industrial power // Doron S. Ben-Atar
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, CT, : Yale University Press, 2004
ISBN	1-281-74078-0 9786611740788 0-300-12721-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (xxi, 281 p.)) : ill., 1 port
Disciplina	338.0973
Soggetti	Business intelligence - United States - History Trade secrets - United States - History Technological innovations - United States - History Piracy (Copyright) - United States - History Industrial property - United States - History
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. Knowledge as Property in the International State System -- Chapter 2. The Battle over Technology within the Empire -- Chapter 3. Benjamin Franklin and America's Technology Deficit -- Chapter 4. After the Revolution: "The American Seduction of Machines and Artisans" -- Chapter 5. Official Orchestration of Technology Smuggling -- Chapter 6. Constructing the American Understanding of Intellectual Property -- Chapter 7. The Path to Crystal Palace -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	During the first decades of America's existence as a nation, private citizens, voluntary associations, and government officials encouraged the smuggling of European inventions and artisans to the New World. At the same time, the young republic was developing policies that set new standards for protecting industrial innovations. This book traces the evolution of America's contradictory approach to intellectual property rights from the colonial period to the age of Jackson. During the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries Britain shared technological innovations selectively with its American colonies. It

became less willing to do so once America's fledgling industries grew more competitive. After the Revolution, the leaders of the republic supported the piracy of European technology in order to promote the economic strength and political independence of the new nation. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the United States became a leader among industrializing nations and a major exporter of technology. It erased from national memory its years of piracy and became the world's foremost advocate of international laws regulating intellectual property.
