Record Nr. UNINA9910777958803321 Autore Varon Elizabeth R. <1963-> Titolo Disunion! [[electronic resource]]: the coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859 / / Elizabeth R. Varon Chapel Hill, : University of North Carolina Press, c2008 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-8078-6607-5 1-4696-0620-8 0-8078-8718-8 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (470 p.) Collana The Littlefield history of the Civil War era Disciplina 973.7/11 Sectionalism (United States) - History Soggetti Slavery - Political aspects - United States - History Antislavery movements - United States - History Rhetoric - Political aspects - United States - History United States Politics and government 1783-1865 United States Politics and government 1783-1865 Sources United States History Civil War, 1861-1865 Causes Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali "A Caravan book"--T.p. verso. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. 401-429) and index. Nota di contenuto The language of terrifying prophecy: disunion debates in the early republic -- We claim our rights: the advent of abolitionism -- Ruinous tendencies: the anti-abolition backlash -- The idea will become familiar: disunion in the era of mass party politics -- Oh for a man who is a man: debating slavery's expansion -- That is revolution!: the crisis of 1850 -- Beneath the iron heel: fugitive slaves and bleeding Kansas -- To consummate its boldest designs: the slave power confronts the republicans -- War to the knife: images of the coming fight -- Epilogue: The Rubicon is passed: the war and beyond. Sommario/riassunto In the decades of the early republic, Americans debating the fate of slavery often invoked the specter of disunion to frighten their opponents. As Elizabeth Varon shows, ""disunion"" connoted the dissolution of the republic--the failure of the founders' effort to

establish a stable and lasting representative government. For many

Americans in both the North and the South, disunion was a nightmare, a cataclysm that would plunge the nation into the kind of fear and misery that seemed to pervade the rest of the world. For many others, however, disunion was seen as the main instrument by which they