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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction / Samuel Kassow -- The importance of demography and patterns of settlement for an understanding of the Jewish experience in East-Central Europe / Gershon David Hundert -- A shtetl with a yeshiva : the case of Volozhin / Immanuel Etkes -- Rebbetzins, wonder-children, and the emergence of the dynastic principle in Hasidism / Nehemia Polen -- Two Jews, three opinions: politics in the shtetl at the turn of the twentieth century / Henry Abramson -- The shtetl in Poland, 1914-1918 / Konrad Zielinski -- The shtetl in interwar Poland / Samuel Kassow -- Looking at the Yiddish landscape : representation in nineteenth-century Hasidic and Maskilic literature / Jeremy Dauber -- Imagined geography : the shtetl, myth, and reality / Israel Bartal -- Gender and the disintegration of the shtetl in modern Hebrew and Yiddish literature / Naomi Seidman -- Rediscovering the shtetl as a new reality : David Bergelson and Itsik Kipnis / Mikhail Krutikov -- Agnon's synthetic shtetl / Arnold J. Band -- The image of the shtetl in contemporary Polish fiction / Katarzyna Wiecewska -- Sarny and Rokitno in the Holocaust : a case study of two townships in Wolyn

(Volhynia) / Yehuda Bauer -- The world of the shtetl / Elie Wiesel.

Sommario/riassunto

Dating from the sixteenth century, there were hundreds of shtetls- Jewish settlements-in Eastern Europe that were home to a large and compact population that differed from their gentile, mostly peasant neighbors in religion, occupation, language, and culture. The shtetls were different in important respects from previous types of Jewish settlements in the Diaspora in that Jews had rarely formed a majority in the towns in which they lived. This was not true of the shtetl, where Jews sometimes comprised 80% or more of the population. While the shtetl began to decline during the course of the nine