

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778286303321
Autore	Freeman Joanne B.
Titolo	Affairs of Honor : National Politics in the New Republic / / Joanne B. Freeman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, CT : , : Yale University Press, , [2008] ©2008
ISBN	1-281-73523-X 9786611735234 0-300-13779-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (401 p.)
Disciplina	973.4
Soggetti	Political culture - History - 18th century - United States Politics and culture - History - 18th century - United States Elite (Social sciences) - History - Political activity - 18th century - United States Honor - Political aspects - History - 18th century - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Prologue: Walking on Untrodden Ground -- 1. The Theater of National Politics -- 2. Slander, Poison, Whispers, and Fame: The Art of Political Gossip -- 3. The Art of Paper War -- 4. Dueling as Politics -- 5. An Honor Dispute of Grand Proportions: The Presidential Election of 1800 -- Epilogue Constructing American History -- A Note on Method -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this extraordinary book, Joanne Freeman offers a major reassessment of political culture in the early years of the American republic. By exploring both the public actions and private papers of key figures such as Thomas Jefferson, Aaron Burr, and Alexander Hamilton, Freeman reveals an alien and profoundly unstable political world grounded on the code of honor. In the absence of a party system and with few examples to guide America's experiment in republican governance, the rituals and rhetoric of honor provided ground rules for political combat. Gossip, print warfare, and dueling were tools used to

jostle for status and form alliances in an otherwise unstructured political realm. These political weapons were all deployed in the tumultuous presidential election of 1800—an event that nearly toppled the new republic. By illuminating this culture of honor, Freeman offers new understandings of some of the most perplexing events of early American history, including the notorious duel between Burr and Hamilton. A major reconsideration of early American politics, *Affairs of Honor* offers a profoundly human look at the anxieties and political realities of leaders struggling to define themselves and their role in the new nation.

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