

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779042203321
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Titolo	Maritime piracy // Robert Haywood and Roberta Spivak
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : Routledge, , 2012
ISBN	1-136-50424-9 1-136-50425-7 0-203-14481-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (185 p.)
Collana	Global institutions
Altri autori (Persone)	SpivakRoberta
Disciplina	364.16/4
Soggetti	Piracy - Prevention - International cooperation Hijacking of ships - Prevention - International cooperation Maritime terrorism - Prevention - International cooperation Merchant marine - Security measures Shipping - Security measures
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	cover; Maritime Piracy; copyright; Contents; List of illustrations; Foreword by the series editors; Acknowledgments; Abbreviations; Introduction; 1. Piracy: the nature of the problem; 2. History; 3. The nuts and bolts of twenty-first century maritime governance relevant to combating piracy; 4. Evolving norms and conventions; 5. Current debates; 6. Key gaps and criticisms; 7. Emerging trends and future directions; Notes; Select bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Maritime Piracy is now a pressing global issue, and this work seeks to provide a concise and informative introduction to the area. Never truly having receded into a romanticized past, seaborne banditry's rapid growth was stimulated by low risks and increasingly high rewards. Currently, obsolete, incomplete and complicating structures and norms of governance, together with advances in technology, enable a lucrative business model for pirates, as they effectively operate with impunity and claim increasing ransoms. ?Beginning with an overview and historical development of