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Nota di contenuto	Introduction : the historical role of an imagined place -- Scientific trends, continental conceptions, revolutionary implications -- The geopolitical continent, 1713-1763 -- Continental crisis, 1763-1774 -- Nationalism's nature : Congress's continental aspect -- Nationalism's nurture : war, peace, and the continental character of the United States, 1775-1783 -- Ordering lands and peoples : scientific and imperial contexts of the late eighteenth century -- Seizing nature's advantages : the Constitution and the continent, 1783-1789 -- Epilogue : the continent from on high.