

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779081803321
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Titolo	Treason by words [[electronic resource]] : literature, law, and rebellion in Shakespeare's England // Rebecca Lemon
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, N.Y., : Cornell University Press, 2006
ISBN	0-8014-6226-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (246 p.)
Disciplina	822/.309358
Soggetti	English drama - Early modern and Elizabethan, 1500-1600 - History and criticism English drama - 17th century - History and criticism Treason in literature Literature and state - Great Britain - History - 16th century Literature and state - Great Britain - History - 17th century Gunpowder Plot, 1605 Great Britain History Elizabeth, 1558-1603
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- CHAPTER ONE. Sovereignty, Treason Law, and the Political Imagination in Early Modern England -- CHAPTER TWO. The Treason of Hayward's Henry IV -- CHAPTER THREE. Shakespeare's Anatomy of Resistance in Richard II -- CHAPTER FOUR. Scaffolds of Treason in Shakespeare's Macbeth -- CHAPTER FIVE. Donne's Pseudo-Martyr and Post-Gunpowder Plot Law -- CHAPTER SIX. Treason and Emergency Power in Jonson's Catiline -- Afterword -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Under the Tudor monarchy, English law expanded to include the category of "treason by words." Rebecca Lemon investigates this remarkable phrase both as a legal charge and as a cultural event. English citizens, she shows, expressed competing notions of treason in opposition to the growing absolutism of the monarchy. Lemon explores the complex participation of texts by John Donne, Ben Jonson, and William Shakespeare in the legal and political controversies marking the Earl of Essex's 1601 rebellion and the 1605 Gunpowder Plot. Lemon

suggests that the articulation of diverse ideas about treason within literary and polemical texts produced increasingly fractured conceptions of the crime of treason itself. Further, literary texts, in representing issues familiar from political polemic, helped to foster more free, less ideologically rigid, responses to the crisis of treason. As a result, such works of imagination bolstered an emerging discourse on subjects' rights. *Treason by Words* offers an original theory of the role of dissent and rebellion during a period of burgeoning sovereign power.
