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	Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface. Why Public Culture? / Shaffer, Marguerite S. -- What Is Public Culture? Agency and Contested Meaning in American Culture-An Introduction / Kupiec Cayton, Mary -- PART I. Public Action -- Chapter 1. Looking for the Public in Time and Space: The Case of the Los Angeles Plaza from the Eighteenth Century to the Present / Ryan, Mary P. -- Chapter 2. Remembrance, Contestation, Excavation: The Work of Memory in Oklahoma City, the Washita Battlefield, and the Tulsa Race Riot / Linenthal, Edward T. -- Chapter 3. Public Sentiments and the American Remembrance of World War II / Bodnar, John -- PART II. Public Image -- Chapter 4. Sponsorship and Snake Oil: Medicine Shows and Contemporary Public Culture / Strasser,

Susan -- Chapter 5. Entertainment Wars: Television Culture after 9/11 / Spigel, Lynn -- Chapter 6. Screening Pornography / Kyong Chun, Wendy Hui -- PART III. Public Space -- Chapter 7. The Billboard War: Gender, Commerce, and Public Space / Gudis, Catherine -- Chapter 8. The Social Space of Shopping: Mobilizing Dreams for Public Culture / Zukin, Sharon -- Chapter 9. Gates, Barriers, and the Rise of Affinity: Parsing Public-Private Space in Postindustrial America / Rothman, Hal -- PART IV. Public Identity -- Chapter 10. To Serve the Living: The Public and Civic Identity of African American Funeral Directors / Smith, Suzanne -- Chapter 11. Denizenship as Transnational Practice / Buff, Rachel Ida -- Chapter 12. The Queen's Mirrors: Public Identity and the Process of Transformation in Cincinnati, Ohio / Frederickson, Mary E. -- Epilogue. Pitfalls and Promises: Whither the "Public" in America? / Croucher, Sheila L. -- Notes -- Contributors -- Index -- Acknowledgments

| Sommario/riassunto | In the United States today many people are as likely to identify themselves by their ethnicity or region as by their nationality. In this country with its diversity and inequalities, can there be a shared public culture? Is there an unbridgeable gap between cultural variety and civic unity, or can public forms of expression provide an opportunity for Americans to come together as a people?In Public Culture: Diversity, Democracy, and Community in the United States, an interdisciplinary group of scholars addresses these questions while considering the state of American public culture over the past one hundred years. From medicine shows to the Internet, from the Los Angeles Plaza to the Las Vegas Strip, from the commemoration of the Oklahoma City bombing to television programming after 9/11, public sights and scenes provide ways to negotiate new forms of belonging in a diverse, postmodern community. By analyzing these cultural phenomena, the essays in this volume reveal how mass media, consumerism, increased privatization of space, and growing political polarization have transformed public culture and the very notion of the American public.Focusing on four central themes-public action, public image, public space, and public identity-and approaching shared culture from a range of disciplines-including mass communication, history, sociology, urban studies, ethnic studies, and cultural studies-Public Culture offers refreshing perspectives on a subject of perennial significance. |