

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780056903321
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Titolo	The Furies [[electronic resource]] : Violence and Terror in the French and Russian Revolutions
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, 2013
ISBN	1-4008-1265-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (735 p.)
Disciplina	944.04
Soggetti	Regions & Countries - Europe History & Archaeology France Political violence - France Political violence - Soviet Union Terror - Soviet Union France History Reign of Terror, 1793-1794 France History Revolution, 1789-1799 Influence Soviet Union History Revolution, 1917-1921 Influence
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	""Cover""; ""Title""; ""Copyright""; ""Dedication""; ""CONTENTS""; ""Preface""; ""Introduction""; ""PART ONE: CONCEPTUAL SIGNPOSTS""; ""1. Revolution""; ""2. Counterrevolution""; ""3. Violence""; ""4. Terror""; ""5. Vengeance""; ""6. Religion""; ""PART TWO: CRESCENDO OF VIOLENCE""; ""7. The Return of Vengeance: Terror in France, 1789-95""; ""8. In the Eye of a "Time of Troubles": Terror in Russia, 1917-21""; ""PART THREE: METROPOLITAN CONDESCENSION AND RURAL DISTRUST""; ""9. Peasant War in France: The Vendee""; ""10. Peasant War in Russia: Ukraine and Tambov"" ""PART FOUR: THE SACRED CONTESTED"" ""11. Engaging the Gallican Church and the Vatican""; ""12. Engaging the Russian Orthodox Church""; ""13. Perils of Emancipation: Protestants and Jews in the Revolutionary Whirlwind""; ""PART FIVE: A WORLD UNHINGED""; ""14. Externalization of the French Revolution: The Napoleonic Wars""; ""15. Internalization of the Russian Revolution: Terror in One Country"";

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Sommario/riassunto

The great romance and fear of bloody revolution--strange blend of idealism and terror--have been superseded by blind faith in the bloodless expansion of human rights and global capitalism. Flying in the face of history, violence is dismissed as rare, immoral, and counterproductive. Arguing against this pervasive wishful thinking, the distinguished historian Arno J. Mayer revisits the two most tumultuous and influential revolutions of modern times: the French Revolution of 1789 and the Russian Revolution of 1917. Although these two upheavals arose in different environments, they followed sim