Record Nr. UNINA9910780525703321 Autore Cohen Derek **Titolo** Searching Shakespeare: studies in culture and authority / / Derek Cohen Pubbl/distr/stampa Toronto, [Ontario];; Buffalo, [New York];; London, [England]:,: University of Toronto Press, , 2003 ©2003 **ISBN** 1-281-99448-0 9786611994488 1-4426-7968-9 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (212 p.) Disciplina 822.33 Soggetti National characteristics, English, in literature Politics and literature - Great Britain Nationalism and literature - England Literature and society - England Literature and history - England Individuality in literature Authority in literature Culture in literature Tragedy History Electronic books. **Great Britain England** Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Tragedy and the nation: Othello -- History and the nation: the second tetralogy -- Slave voices: Caliban and Ariel -- The scapegoat mechanism: Shylock and Caliban -- The self-representations of Othello

-- King Lear and memory -- The past of Macbeth -- Messengers of death: the figure of the hit man -- 'noseless, handless, hack'd and

chipp'd: broken human bodies.

Sommario/riassunto

"Searching Shakespeare presents a political-historical exploration of Shakespeare's drama, examining the plays in the context of current ideological concerns - history, memory, marginality, and nationalism. Derek Cohen predicates his argument on the supposition that the individual, as much as the encompassing state, is subject to the shaping forces and machinery of the ideological surround." "Shakespeare's plays, Cohen argues, consistently portray the clash between the passionate search for individuality and the guest for social harmony as irresolvable. The playwright's uncanny ability to carry the reader to the edge of imaginary experience - far from the literal world that is made visible by the text - offers an entry into the subtextual and ironic underside of the dramas. It is in this dark and strange world of slavery, mutilation, sexual jealousy, and suborned murder that the implicit political biases of the plays are most evident and it is here, too, that a modern political analysis reveals why Shakespeare portrayed the quest for individuation and self-expression as necessarily ending in tragedy."--Jacket