

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780644803321
Autore	Smith Caleb <1977->
Titolo	The prison and the American imagination [[electronic resource] /] / Caleb Smith
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2009
ISBN	1-282-35324-1 9786612353246 0-300-15630-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (320 p.)
Collana	Yale Studies in English
Disciplina	810.9/9206927
Soggetti	American literature - History and criticism Imprisonment in literature Prisoners - United States - Intellectual life Prisons in literature
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 -- Introduction -- Part One. Buried Alive -- Part Two. Born Again -- Part Three. Afterlives -- Epilogue -- Notes -- Selected Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	How did a nation so famously associated with freedom become internationally identified with imprisonment? After the scandals of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay, and in the midst of a dramatically escalating prison population, the question is particularly urgent. In this timely, provocative study, Caleb Smith argues that the dehumanization inherent in captivity has always been at the heart of American civil society. Exploring legal, political, and literary texts-including the works of Dickinson, Melville, and Emerson-Smith shows how alienation and self-reliance, social death and spiritual rebirth, torture and penitence came together in the prison, a scene for the portrayal of both gothic nightmares and romantic dreams. Demonstrating how the "cellular soul" has endured since the antebellum age, The Prison and the American Imagination offers a passionate and haunting critique of the very idea of solitude in American life.

