

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910781588703321
Autore	Brantlinger Patrick <1941->
Titolo	Taming cannibals [[electronic resource]] : race and the Victorians // Patrick Brantlinger
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, : Cornell University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-8014-6264-9 0-8014-6263-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (289 p.)
Disciplina	305.800941
Soggetti	Cannibalism in literature Cannibalism - History - 19th century English literature - 19th century - History and criticism Race in literature Racism in literature Great Britain Race relations History 19th century
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Race and the Victorians -- Part I. Two Island Stories -- 1. Missionaries and Cannibals in Nineteenth-Century Fiji -- 2. King Billy's Bones: The Last Tasmanians -- Part II. Racial Alternatives -- 3. Going Native in Nineteenth-Century History and Literature -- 4. "God Works by Races": Benjamin Disraeli's Caucasian Arabian Hebrew Tent -- Part III. The 1860's: The Decade after Darwin's Origin -- 5. Race and Class in the 1860's -- 6. The Unbearable Lightness of Being Irish -- Part IV. Ancient and Future Races -- 7. Mummy Love: H. Rider Haggard and Racial Archaeology -- 8. "Shadows of the Coming Race" -- Epilogue: Kipling's "The White Man's Burden" and Its Afterlives -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In Taming Cannibals, Patrick Brantlinger unravels contradictions embedded in the racist and imperialist ideology of the British Empire. For many Victorians, the idea of taming cannibals or civilizing savages was oxymoronic: civilization was a goal that the nonwhite peoples of the world could not attain or, at best, could only approximate, yet the

"civilizing mission" was viewed as the ultimate justification for imperialism. Similarly, the supposedly unshakeable certainty of Anglo-Saxon racial superiority was routinely undercut by widespread fears about racial degeneration through contact with "lesser" races or concerns that Anglo-Saxons might be superseded by something superior-an even "fitter" or "higher" race or species. Brantlinger traces the development of those fears through close readings of a wide range of texts-including *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, *Fiji and the Fijians* by Thomas Williams, *Daily Life and Origin of the Tasmanians* by James Bonwick, *The Descent of Man* by Charles Darwin, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, *Culture and Anarchy* by Matthew Arnold, *She* by H. Rider Haggard, and *The War of the Worlds* by H. G. Wells. Throughout the wide-ranging, capacious, and rich *Taming Cannibals*, Brantlinger combines the study of literature with sociopolitical history and postcolonial theory in novel ways.
