

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782976603321
Autore	Harlan David (David Craig)
Titolo	The degradation of American history [[electronic resource] /] / David Harlan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, Ill., : University of Chicago Press, 1997
ISBN	1-282-06990-X 9786612069901 0-226-31615-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (326 p.)
Disciplina	973/.07/2
Soggetti	History - Methodology United States Historiography Moral and ethical aspects United States History Methodology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 215-277) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- INTRODUCTION "It Hath No Relish if Salvation in It" -- CHAPTER ONE. Deeper into the Wilderness -- CHAPTER TWO. A People Blinded from Birth -- CHAPTER THREE. Doubts and Dispossessions -- CHAPTER FOUR. After Looking into the Abyss -- CHAPTER FIVE. The Return if the Moral Imagination -- CHAPTER SIX. A Choice of Inheritance -- CHAPTER SEVEN. The Dream if a Common History -- CHAPTER EIGHT. Love and Objectivity -- Epilogue -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	American historical writing has traditionally been one of our primary forms of moral reflection. However, David Harlan argues that in the disillusionment following the 1960's, history abandoned its redemptive potential and took up the methodology of the social sciences. In this provocative new book, Harlan describes the reasons for this turn to objectivity and professionalism, explains why it failed, and examines the emergence of a New Traditionalism in American historical writing. Part One, "The Legacy of the Sixties," describes the impact of literary theory in the 1970's and beyond, the rise of women's history, the various forms of ideological analysis developed by historians on the left, and the crippling obsession with professionalism in the 1980's.

Part Two, "The Renewal of American Historical Writing," focuses on the contributions of John Patrick Diggins, Hayden White, Richard Rorty, Elaine Showalter, Henry Louis Gates Jr., and others. Harlan argues that at the end of the twentieth century American historical writing is perfectly poised to become what it once was: not one of the social sciences in historical costume, but a form of moral reflection that speaks to all Americans. "[A] wholly admirable work. This book will be talked about for years."-Library Journal

---