

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783112303321
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Titolo	The age of Elizabeth in the age of Johnson // Jack Lynch [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2003
ISBN	1-107-12609-6 1-280-16245-7 0-511-12105-9 1-139-14876-1 0-511-06150-1 0-511-05517-X 0-511-33010-3 0-511-48437-2 0-511-06996-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 224 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	942.05/5/072041
Soggetti	English literature - Early modern, 1500-1700 - History and criticism - Theory, etc Literature and history - Great Britain - History - 18th century Historiography - Great Britain - History - 18th century Renaissance - England - Historiography Influence (Literary, artistic, etc.) Great Britain History Elizabeth, 1558-1603 Historiography Great Britain Intellectual life 18th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 198-218) and index.
Nota di contenuto	; 1. Struggling to emerge from barbarity: historiography and the idea of the classic -- ; 2. Learning's triumph: historicism and the spirit of the age -- ; 3. Call Britannia's glories back to view: Tudor history and Hanoverian historians -- ; 4. The rage of Reformation: religious controversy and political stability -- ; 5. The ground-work of stile: language and national identity -- ; 6. Studied barbarity: Jonson, Spenser, and the idea of progress -- ; 7. The last age: Renaissance lost.

Sommario/riassunto

In *The Age of Elizabeth in the Age of Johnson*, Jack Lynch explores eighteenth-century British conceptions of the Renaissance, and the historical, intellectual, and cultural uses to which the past was put during the period. Scholars, editors, historians, religious thinkers, linguists and literary critics of the period all defined themselves in relation to 'the last age' or 'the age of Elizabeth'. Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century thinkers reworked older historical schemes to suit their own needs, turning to the ages of Petrarch and Poliziano, Erasmus and Scaliger, Shakespeare, Spenser, and Queen Elizabeth to define their culture in contrast to the preceding age. They derived a powerful sense of modernity from the comparison, which proved essential to the constitution of a national character. This interdisciplinary study will be of interest to cultural as well as literary historians of the eighteenth century.
