

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786000703321
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Titolo	Discord [[electronic resource]] : the story of noise // Mike Goldsmith
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford, : Oxford University Press, 2012
ISBN	0-19-163382-8 1-283-63466-X 0-19-163381-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (317 p.)
Disciplina	534
Soggetti	Noise Noise pollution Noise control
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; List of Figures; Abbreviations; Introduction; 1. The Nature of Noise; 2. A Silent Bang; 3. Classical Noise; 4. New Noise; 5. A New Science of Sound; 6. Noise in the Eighteenth Century; 7. Machineries of Noise; 8. The First Champions of Silence; 9. The Noise Century; 10. Noise in Wartime; 11. A Time of Peace?; 12. A Different Kind of War; 13. A New Beginning?; 14. The Power of Science; 15. A New Pollution; 16. Noise Now; 17. A Quieter Tomorrow?; Notes; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; X; Y; Z
Sommario/riassunto	Noise is a widely recognized problem and health concern in the modern world. Given the importance of managing noise levels and developing suitable 'soundscapes' in contexts such as industry, schools, or public spaces, this is an area of active research for acousticians. But noise, in the sense of dissonance, can also be used positively; composers have employed it from Baroque music to Rock feedback; medicine harnesses it to shatter kidney stones and treat cancer; and even the military uses it in (real and rumoured) weapons. Mike Goldsmith looks back at the long history of the battle between peop