

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787874403321
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Titolo	Jean Paton and the struggle to reform American adoption // E. Wayne Carp
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ann Arbor : , : University of Michigan Press, , [2014]
ISBN	0-472-02990-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (432 p.)
Classificazione	BIO022000FAM004000POL029000
Disciplina	362.734092 B
Soggetti	Adoption - United States - History Open adoption - United States - History Adoptees - United States - History Birthparents - United States - History Social workers - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	""Contents""; ""Introduction""; ""1. The Search for Identity""; ""2. The Birth of a Reformer""; ""3. The Life History Study Center""; ""4. On the Road""; ""5. Religion and Reunion""; ""6. Illegitimacy, Traumatic Neurosis, and the Problem of Affliction""; ""7. Orphan Voyage""; ""8. Orphan Voyage Moves South""; ""9. The New Adoption Reform Movement""; ""10. Organizing the Movement""; ""11. Sealed Adoption Records""; ""12. Ombudsman""; ""13. The American Adoption Congress""; ""14. Straight Ahead""; ""15. The Great American Tragedy""; ""Epilogue""; ""Notes""; ""Index""
Sommario/riassunto	"Pioneering adoption activist Jean Paton (1908-2002) fought effectively for 50 years to reform American adoption. Paton gave adult adoptees a voice and provided them with a healthy self-image; facilitated thousands of meetings between adult adoptees and their families of origin; fought to open sealed adoption records; and indefatigably explained the adoption experience to a wider public. Paton's ceaseless activity created the preconditions for the explosive emergence of the adoption reform movement in the 1970s. She was also instrumental in the formation of two of the movement's most vital organizations,

Concerned United Birthparents and the American Adoption Congress. Using previously unexamined sources, historian E. Wayne Carp offers the first-ever biography of Jean Paton. Beginning in 1951, Paton, a twice-adopted, middle-aged ex-social worker, dedicated her life to overcoming American society's prejudices against adult adoptees and women who give birth out of wedlock. Her unflagging efforts over the next five decades helped reverse social workers' harmful policy and practice concerning adoption and sealed adoption records and change lawmakers' enactment of laws prejudicial to adult adoptees and birth mothers, struggles that continue to this day"--
