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Altri autori (Persone)	OddieTasker L <1870-1950> (Tasker Lowndes), (Republican (NV))
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Autore	Payne Charlton
Titolo	The epic imaginary [[electronic resource] ] : political power and its legitimations in eighteenth-century German literature / / Charlton Payne
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgments -- Table of Contents -- Introduction: The Epic Imaginary in Eighteenth-Century German Literature -- 1. The Epic Genre and the Question of Legitimacy in Eighteenth-Century Poetics -- 2. The Epic Prosody of the Sublime Nation: Klopstock's Messiah -- Excursus: The Passions of Klopstock and Badiou -- 3. The Politics and Poetics of Epic World Citizenship in Goethe's Hermann und Dorothea. -- 4. Wieland's Parodic Humanism -- Epilogue: Brentano's Romanzen vom Rosenkranz and the Romantic Epic -- Bibliography -- Index of Subjects -- Index of Names
Sommario/riassunto	This study analyzes how the imagination of the epic genre as legitimately legitimating community also unleashes an ambivalence between telling coherent - and hence legitimating - stories of political community and narrating open-ended stories of contingency that might de-legitimate political power. Manifest in eighteenth-century poetics above all in the disjunction between programmatic definitions of the epic and actual experiments with the genre, this ambivalence can also arise within a single epic over the course of its narrative. The present study thus traces how particular eighteenth-century epics

explore an originary incompleteness of political power and its narrative legitimations. The first chapter sketches an overview of how eighteenth-century writers construct an imaginary epic genre that is assigned the task of performing the cultural work of legitimating political communities by narrating their allegedly unifying origins and borders. The subsequent chapters, however, explore how the practice of epic storytelling in works by Klopstock, Goethe, Wieland, and, in an epilogue, Brentano enact the disruptive potential of poetic language and narrative to question the legitimations of imaginary political origins and unities.

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