

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789997303321
Autore	Bergerson Andrew Stuart
Titolo	The happy burden of history [[electronic resource]] : from sovereign impunity to responsible selfhood // Andrew S. Bergerson ... [et al.]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; New York, : De Gruyter, c2011
ISBN	1-283-16603-8 9786613166036 3-11-024637-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (264 p.)
Collana	Interdisciplinary German cultural studies, , 1861-8030 ; ; v. 9
Disciplina	943.086072
Soggetti	National socialism - Historiography Genocide - Germany - History - 20th century Impunity - Germany - History - 20th century Collective memory - Germany Self - Social aspects - Germany Responsibility - Social aspects - Germany Social change - Germany Germany History 1933-1945 Historiography Germany History 1933-1945 Biography Germany Moral conditions History 20th century
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.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- About this Book -- Myths -- Lies -- Non-Conformity -- Irony -- The Finish -- Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	Germans are often accused of failing to take responsibility for Nazi crimes, but what precisely should ordinary people do differently? Indeed, scholars have yet to outline viable alternatives for how any of us should respond to terror and genocide. And because of the way they compartmentalize everyday life, our discipline-bound analyses often disguise more than they illuminate. Written by a historian, literary critic, philosopher, and theologian, The Happy Burden of History takes an integrative approach to the problem of responsible selfhood. Exploring

the lives and letters of ordinary and intellectual Germans who faced the ethical challenges of the Third Reich, it focuses on five typical tools for cultivating the modern self: myths, lies, non-conformity, irony, and modeling. The authors carefully dissect the ways in which ordinary and intellectual Germans excused their violent claims to mastery with a sense of 'sovereign impunity.' They then recuperate the same strategies of selfhood for our contemporary world, but in ways that are self-critical and humble. The book shows how viewing this problem from within everyday life can empower and encourage us to bear the burden of historical responsibility - and be happy doing so.
