

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790704303321
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Titolo	That religion in which all men agree : freemasonry in American culture / / David G. Hackett
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, California : , : University of California Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-520-28760-6 0-520-95762-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (330 p.)
Disciplina	366/.10973
Soggetti	Freemasonry - United States - History Group identity - United States - History United States Religion United States Social life and customs
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Colonial Freemasonry and Polite Society, 1733-1776 -- 2. Revolutionary Masonry: Republican and Christian, 1757-1825 -- 3. A Private World of Ritual, 1797-1825 -- 4. Anti-Masonry and the Public Sphere, 1826-1850 -- 5. Gender, Protestants, and Freemasonry, 1850- 1920 -- 6. The Prince Hall Masons and the African American Church: The Labors of Grand Master and Bishop James Walker Hood, 1864- 1918 -- 7. Freemasonry and Native Americans, 1776-1920 -- 8. Jews and Catholics, 1723-1920 -- Epilogue -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This powerful study weaves the story of Freemasonry into the narrative of American religious history. Freighted with the mythical legacies of stonemasons' guilds and the Newtonian revolution, English Freemasonry arrived in colonial America with a vast array of cultural baggage, which was drawn on, added to, and transformed during its sojourn through American culture. David G. Hackett argues that from the 1730's through the early twentieth century the religious worlds of an evolving American social order broadly appropriated the beliefs and initiatory practices of this all-male society. For much of American

history, Freemasonry was both counter and complement to Protestant churches, as well as a forum for collective action among racial and ethnic groups outside the European American Protestant mainstream. Moreover, the cultural template of Freemasonry gave shape and content to the American "public sphere." By including a group not usually seen as a carrier of religious beliefs and rituals, Hackett expands and complicates the terrain of American religious history by showing how Freemasonry has contributed to a broader understanding of the multiple influences that have shaped religion in American culture.

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