

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791554903321
Autore	Weaver John C
Titolo	A sadly troubled history [[electronic resource]] : the meanings of suicide in the modern age // John C. Weaver
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal ; ; Ithaca, : McGill-Queen's University Press, c2009
ISBN	1-282-86726-1 9786612867262 0-7735-7682-7
Descrizione fisica	1 electronic text (xvi, 447 p. : ill.) : digital file
Collana	McGill-Queen's/Associated Medical Services studies in the history of medicine, health, and society ; ; 33
Disciplina	362.28/0993
Soggetti	Suicide - Australia - Queensland - History Suicide - New Zealand - History Suicide
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Suicide as a gauge for the times : the nineteenth century -- Epistemic communities and the suicide problem : the twentieth century -- Bearings on a temporal compass : rates, seasons, cohorts, and motives -- Work and troubles : men and motives -- Sorrows and burdens : women and motives -- What becomes of the broken-hearted? : intentions, decisions, and acts -- Managing mental crises : psychiatry and suicidal patients.
Sommario/riassunto	More people die by suicide each year than by homicide, wars, and terrorist attacks combined. Witnesses and survivors are left perplexed and troubled. Doctors, clinical psychologists, and social workers try to deal with it through their professional routines; sociologists and psychiatrists attempt to provide theoretical explanations of it. In a study of nearly 7000 suicides from 1900 to 1950 in New Zealand and Queensland, Australia, John Weaver documents the challenges that ordinary people experienced during turbulent times and, using witnesses' testimony, death bed statements, and suicide notes, reconstructs individuals' thoughts as they decide whether to endure their suffering. Bridging social and medical history, Weaver presents an

intellectual and political history of suicide studies, a revealing construction and deconstruction of suicide rates, a discussion of gender, life stages, and socio-economic circumstances in relation to suicide patterns, reflections on reasoning processes and intent, and society's reactions to suicide, including medical intervention. A Sadly Troubled History marshals thousands of suicide inquests, replete with observations on the anxieties of unemployment, the heartbreak of romantic disappointment, the pain of domestic turmoil, and the torments of mental illness, to demonstrate that history - although, like biochemistry, sociology, psychology, and psychiatry, reliant on remarkable yet imperfect information - can contribute to a better understanding of the suicidal act and its motives.
