

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910793381503321
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Titolo	Wartime Notebooks : France, 1940-1944 // Andrzej Bobkowski
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, CT : , : Yale University Press, , [2019] ©2018
ISBN	0-300-19004-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (698 pages)
Collana	The Margellos World Republic of Letters
Altri autori (Persone)	DrabikGrazyna EngelsteinLaura
Disciplina	940.5481
Soggetti	World War, 1939-1945 World War, 1939-1945 - France France History German occupation, 1940-1945 France Social life and customs 20th century France Description and travel
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- 1940 -- 1941 -- 1942 -- 1943 -- 1944 -- AFTERWORD: OUT OF THIS NETTLE -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND TRANSLATORS' NOTE -- NOTES -- INDEX OF NAMES
Sommario/riassunto	A Polish writer's experience of wartime France, a cosmopolitan outsider's perspective on politics, culture, and life under duress When the aspiring young writer Andrzej Bobkowski, a self-styled cosmopolitan Pole, found himself caught in occupied France in 1940, he recorded his reflections on culture, politics, history, and everyday life. Published after the war, his notebooks offer an outsider's perspective on the hardships and ironies of the Occupation. In the face of war, Bobkowski celebrates the value of freedom and human life through the evocation-in a daringly untragic mode-of ordinary existence, the taste of simple food, the beauty of the French countryside. Resisting intellectual abstractions, his notes exude a young man's pleasure in physical movement-miles clocked on country roads and Parisian streets on his trusty bike-and they reveal the emergence of an original literary voice. Bobkowski was recognized in

his homeland as a master of modern Polish prose only after
Communism ended. He remains to be discovered in the English-
speaking world.
