

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910797094903321
Titolo	Tyrants writing poetry : the art of language and violence // edited by Albrecht Koschorke and Konstantin Kaminskij
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Budapest ; ; New York : , : Central European University Press, , 2017 ©2017
ISBN	963-386-203-5
Edizione	[English edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (288 pages)
Disciplina	809/.933581
Soggetti	Sovereignty in literature Dictators in literature Politics and literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Table of Contents -- Introduction -- Contributors -- The Tyrant with His Back to the Wall: Nero's Artistic Self-Expansion -- Benito Mussolini: "Babeuf" (1902) -- Poetry and Tyranny: The Case of Benito Mussolini -- Joseph Stalin: "Over This Land" (1895) -- Stalin's Writing: From the Romantic Poetry of the Future to the Socialist Realist Prose of the Past -- Adolf Hitler: Excerpt from Mein Kampf (1924) -- Ideology in Execution: On Hitler's Mein Kampf -- Kim Il-sung: "Poem Dedicated to Comrade Kim Jong-il on His 50th Birthday" (1992) -- Dead Father's Living Body: Kim Il-sung's Seed Theory and North Korean Arts -- Mao Zedong: "Snow" (1936) -- Mao Zedong's Poetry: Form as Statement -- Muammar al-Gaddafi: Excerpt from "Escape to Hell" (1993) -- A Poor Despot Descends to Hell: On the Writing and Thinking Styles of Muammar al-Gaddafi -- Saddam Hussein: "Unbind It" (2007) -- The Principle of Single-Handed Tyranny: On Saddam Hussein's Literary Works -- Saparmyrat Niyazov: "You Are Turkmen" (2001) -- Saparmyrat Niyazov's Ruhnama: The Invention of Turkmenistan -- Radovan Karadžić: "Sarajevo" (1971) -- "Nothing Is Forbidden in My Faith": The Metamorphoses of Radovan Karadžić -- List of Contributors
Sommario/riassunto	Why do tyrants - of all people - often have poetic aspirations? Where do terror and prose meet? This book contains nine case studies that

compare the cultural history of totalitarian regimes. The essays focus not on the arts, literature or architecture but on the phenomenon that many of history's great despots considered themselves talented writers. By studying the artistic ambitions of Nero, Mussolini, Stalin, Hitler, Mao Zedong, Kim Il-sung, Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein, Saparmurat Niyazov and Radovan Karadzic, the authors explore the complicated relationship between poetry and political violence, and provide a fascinating look at the aesthetic dimensions of total power. The essays make an important contribution to a number of fields: the study of totalitarian regimes, cultural studies, and biographies of 20th century leaders. They underscore the frequent correlation between tyrannical governance and an excessive passion for language, and demonstrate that the combination of artistic and political charisma is often effective in the quest for absolute power.
