

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910798134703321
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Titolo	The great train race : railways and the Franco-German rivalry, 1815-1914 / / by Allan Mitchell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Berghahn Books, , 2000
ISBN	1-84545-136-8 1-57181-166-4 1-78238-197-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (352 p.)
Disciplina	385/.0943
Soggetti	Railroads - France - History Railroads - Germany - History Railroads and state - France - History Railroads and state - Germany - History World War, 1914-1918 - Transportation
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 (pages [307]-315) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	THE GREAT TRAIN RACE; CONTENTS; PREFACE; INTRODUCTION; PART I. LAUNCHING THE RAILWAY AGE; Chapter 1. FRANCE, 1815-1870; Chapter 2. GERMANY, 1815-1870; Chapter 3. COMPARISONS, 1815-1870; PART II. THE SIGNALS ARE SET; Chapter 4. FRANCE, 1870-1890; Chapter 5. GERMANY, 1870-1890; Chapter 6. COMPARISONS, 1870-1890; PART III. INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS; Chapter 7. FRANCE, 1890-1914; Chapter 8. GERMANY, 1890-1914; Chapter 9. COMPARISONS, 1890-1914; EPILOGUE; LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS; NOTES; BIBLIOGRAPHY; NAME INDEX; SUBJECT INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	From their origins, railways produced an intense competition between the two major continental systems in France and Germany. Fitting a new technology into existing political institutions and social habits, these two nations became inexorably involved in industrial and commercial rivalry that eventually escalated into the armed conflict of 1914. Based on many years of research in French and German archives, this study examines the adaptation of railroads and steam engines from Britain to the continent of Europe after the Napoleonic age. A

fascinating example of how the same technology, borrowed at the same time from the same source, was assimilated differently by the two continental powers, this book offers a groundbreaking analysis of the crossroads of technology and politics during the first Industrial Revolution.
