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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 255-325) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : "Caucasians" and the political history of racial identities -- Before the "Caucasian race" : antecedents of European racialism, ca. 1000-1684 -- Enlightenment science and the invention of the "Caucasian race," 1684-1795 -- Passage into "our ordinary forms of expression" : the "Caucasian race," ca. 1795-1850 -- Racialized nationalism and the partial eclipse of the "Caucasian race," ca. 1840-1935 -- The color line and the "Caucasian race" revival, 1935-51 -- Not-so-benign racialism : the "Caucasian race" after decolonization, 1952-2005 -- "Where Caucasian means black" : "race," nation, and the Chechen wars -- Conclusion : deconstructing "Caucasia," dismantling racism.
Sommario/riassunto	The term "Caucasian" is a curious invention of the modern age. Originating in 1795, the word identifies both the peoples of the Caucasus Mountains region as well as those thought to be "Caucasian". Bruce Baum explores the history of the term and the category of the "Caucasian race" more broadly in the light of the changing politics of racial theory and notions of racial identity. With a comprehensive sweep that encompasses the understanding of "race" even before the use of the term "Caucasian," Baum traces the major trends in scientific and intellectual understandings of "race" from the Middle Ages to the

present day. Baum's conclusions make an unprecedented attempt to separate modern science and politics from a long history of racial classification. He offers significant insights into our understanding of race and how the "Caucasian race" has been authoritatively invented, embraced, displaced, and recovered throughout our history.

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