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Titolo	Plucked : a history of hair removal // Rebecca M. Herzig
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : New York University Press, , [2015] ©2015
ISBN	1-4798-4025-4 1-4798-3065-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 287 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Biopolitics: medicine, technoscience and health in the 21st century
Classificazione	SOC026000SOC028000SOC032000
Disciplina	617.4779
Soggetti	Human body - Social aspects - United States - History Body hair - Social aspects - United States - History Hair - Social aspects - United States - History Hair - Removal - United States - History History United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Necessary suffering -- The hairless Indian : savagery and civility before the Civil War -- "Chemicals of the toilette" : from homemade remedies to a new industrial order -- Bearded women and dog-faced men : Darwin's great denudation -- "Smooth, white, velvety skin" : x-ray salons and social mobility -- Glandular trouble : sex hormones and deviant hair growth -- Unshaven : "arm-pit feminists" and women's liberation -- "Cleaning the basement" : labor, pornography, and Brazilian waxing -- Magic bullets : laser regulation and elective medicine -- "The next frontier" : genetic enhancement and the end of hair -- Conclusion: We are all plucked.
Sommario/riassunto	"From the clamshell razors and homemade lye depilatories used in colonial America to the diode lasers and prescription pharmaceuticals available today, Americans have used a staggering array of tools to remove hair deemed unsightly, unnatural, or excessive. This is true especially for women and girls; conservative estimates indicate that 99% of American women have tried hair removal, and at least 85%

regularly remove hair from their faces, armpits, legs, and bikini lines. How and when does hair become a problem--what makes some growth "excessive"? Who or what separates the necessary from the superfluous? In *Plucked*, historian Rebecca Herzig addresses these questions about hair removal. She shows how, over time, dominant American beliefs about visible hair changed: where once elective hair removal was considered a "mutilation" practiced primarily by "savage" men, by the turn of the twentieth century, hair-free faces and limbs were expected for women. Visible hair growth--particularly on young, white women--came to be perceived as a sign of political extremism, sexual deviance, or mental illness. By the turn of the twenty-first century, more and more Americans were waxing, threading, shaving, or lasering themselves smooth. Herzig's extraordinary account also reveals some of the collateral damages of the intensifying pursuit of hair-free skin. Moving beyond the experiences of particular patients or clients, Herzig describes the surprising histories of race, science, industry, and medicine behind today's hair-removing tools. *Plucked* is an unsettling, gripping, and original tale of the lengths to which Americans will go to remove hair"--Provided by publisher.
