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Titolo	The Sahara : a cultural history // Eamonn Gearon
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ISBN	0-19-986197-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (288 p.)
Collana	Landscapes of the imagination
Disciplina	966
Soggetti	Sahara History Sahara Civilization Sahara In literature
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Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 249-250) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- A quick tour of the Sahara -- Flora and fauna -- Part 1: Landscapes. Whales in the desert -- Rock art -- Saharan urban -- Part 2: History: conquests and empires. From ancient Egypt to the Arab invasion -- Travellers, chroniclers, geographers -- Part 3: History: exploration, imperialism and independence. European forays: the African Association and Napoleon -- Further horizons: exploration and the European land grab -- War and peace and war -- The second world war -- Heaven and hell: independence and since -- Part 4: Imagination. Classical inspiration -- Poetic muse -- A brilliant palette -- Oriental delights, strange worlds and spy stories -- Silver screen Sahara -- Part 5: Encounters: indigenes and visitors. Men with a mission -- Literary travellers and tourists -- People of the Sahara.
Sommario/riassunto	The Sahara is the quintessence of isolation, epitomizing both remoteness and severity of environment unlike any other place on the face of the earth. Replete with myths and fictions, it is a wild land, dotted with oases and camel trains trudging through sand dunes that roll like the waves on a sea, as far as the distant horizon. But this is just part of the picture. The largest desert in the world, the Sahara ranges from the river Nile running through Egypt and Sudan in the east, to the Atlantic coast from Morocco to Mauritania in the west; stretching from the Atlas Mountains and the shores of the Mediterranean in the north,

to the fluid Sahelian fringe that delineates the desert in the south. Invaders and traders have come and gone for millennia, but the Sahara is also the place that some people call home. While larger than the United States, this vast area contains only three million people: Africans and Arabs, Berber and Bedu, Tuareg and Tebu. Eamonn Gearon explores the history, culture, and terrain of a place whose name is familiar to all, but known to few. Conquered and Cursed: from the 50,000-strong army of Cambyses, swallowed in a sandstorm in the sixth century BC, to the US Marines' first foreign engagement, in 1805; Hannibal and his elephants, Caesar against Anthony and Cleopatra, Alexander the Great, the armies of Islam, Napoleon, and Rommel versus Monty. Myths and Mysteries: from whales in the White Desert to the arrival of camels in the Great Sand Sea; chariots of the gods and colonialists' motor-cars; from the Land of the Dead to Timbuktu; salt and gold mines, fields of oil and gas and a man-made river. Artists, Writers, and Filmmakers: from the ancient rock art of the Tassili frescoes to the modernism of Matisse and Klee; from Ibn Battuta to Paul Bowles; from Beau Geste's French Foreign Legion to Star Wars.
