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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910808756803321 |
| Autore | Bayatrizi Zohreh <1973-> |
| Titolo | Life sentences : the modern ordering of mortality / / Zohreh Bayatrizi |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2008 ©2008 |
| ISBN | 1-4426-9238-3 1-4426-8849-1 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (217 p.) |
| Disciplina | 306.9 |
| Soggetti | Death - Social aspects - Western countries - History Death - Social aspects - History Life and death, Power over - Social aspects - History Western countries |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and indexes. |
| Nota di contenuto | Introduction: the modern ordering of mortality -- Thou shalt not die violently: death and the modern problematic of order -- Thou shalt not die prematurely: the political economy of death -- Thou shalt not kill thyself: the de-moralization of suicide -- Thou shalt not die an undignified death: the discursive constitution of death with dignity -- Conclusion: thou shalt die an orderly death. |
| Sommario/riassunto | Death has popularly had the reputation of being the last of life's great mysteries, a subject of speculation, and as a foreboding event both inevitable, and feared. In <i>Life Sentences</i> , Zohreh Bayatrizi examines the many concerted attempts from the last 350 years to strip death of its mystery, and to order, manage, and transform it from an individualized and fatalistic event to a social phenomenon that allows intervention. She examines the process that has caused death to be understood in five quasi-biblical commandments: "thou shalt not die violently; thou shalt not die prematurely; thou shalt not kill thyself; and thou shalt not die an undignified death, so that thou shalt die an orderly death." Beginning with John Graunt's <i>Natural and Political Observations Made upon the Bills of Mortality</i> (1662) - considered the first book of |

statistics - and philosopher Thomas Hobbes's declaration that society must minimize the "greatest evil" of unsanctioned violent deaths, Bayatrizi traces the pivotal moments that have changed our understanding of death. While illuminating the history of our increasingly rationalized understanding of death, she also examines some of our most contradictory reactions to controversial topics such as suicide, euthanasia, suicide bombing, "collateral damage," and how our moral values have been shaped by an understanding of the proper place of a well-ordered death in modern society. Both historically rigorous and vigorously engaged in contemporary debates, *Life Sentences* will be of interest to anyone interested in how we deal with death before we die.
