Record Nr. UNINA9910811205603321 Autore Grethlein Jonas <1978-> Titolo Experience and teleology in ancient historiography: 'futures past' from Herodotus to Augustine // Jonas Grethlein, Universitat Heidelberg [[electronic resource]] Cambridge:,: Cambridge University Press,, 2013 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-107-42521-2 1-107-42300-7 1-107-41993-X 1-107-41731-7 1-107-42117-9 1-139-62881-X 1 online resource (xi, 422 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Descrizione fisica Disciplina 930.072 Soggetti History, Ancient - Historiography Rhetoric, Ancient - Historiography History - Methodology Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and indexes. Nota di contenuto Futures past: historiography between experience and teleology --Experience: making the past present -- Thucydides, The history of the Peloponnesian War -- Xenophon, Anabasis -- Plutarch, Alexander --Tacitus, Annals -- Teleology: the power of retrospect -- Herodotus, Histories -- Polybius, Histories -- Sallust, Bellum catilinae -- Beyond experience and teleology -- Augustine, Confessions -- Epilogue: experience in modern historiography. Sommario/riassunto The past is narrated in retrospect. Historians can either capitalize on the benefit of hindsight and give their narratives a strongly teleological design or they may try to render the past as it was experienced by historical agents and contemporaries. This book explores the fundamental tension between experience and teleology in major works of Greek and Roman historiography, biography and autobiography. The combination of theoretical reflections with close readings yields a new,

often surprising assessment of the history of ancient historiography as

well as a deeper understanding of such authors as Thucydides, Tacitus and Augustine. While much recent work has focused on how ancient historians use emplotment to generate historical meaning, Experience and Teleology in Ancient Historiography offers a new approach to narrative form as a mode of coming to grips with time.