

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812765303321
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Titolo	The history of the Stasi : East Germany's secret police, 1945-1990 // Jens Gieseke ; translated by David Burnett
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Berghahn Books, , 2014
ISBN	1-78238-255-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (277 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	BurnettDavid
Disciplina	363.28/30943109045
Soggetti	Internal security - Germany (East) - History Secret service - Germany (East) - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Originally published under title: Mielke-Konzern. Stuttgart : Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 2001.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Antifascism, Stalinism, cold civil war : origins and influences, 1945 to 1956 -- The safest GDR in the world : the driving forces of Stasi growth -- The unofficial collaborator : a new type of informer -- Blanket surveillance? state security in East German society -- Resistance, opposition, persecution -- Wolf and Co. : MFS operations abroad -- Final crisis and collapse, 1989-90 -- Legacy, aufarbeitung, culture of memory : the second life of the Stasi.
Sommario/riassunto	The East German Ministry for State Security stood for Stalinist oppression and all-encompassing surveillance. The "shield and sword of the party," it secured the rule of the Communist Party for more than forty years, and by the 1980s it had become the largest secret-police apparatus in the world, per capita. Jens Gieseke tells the story of the Stasi, a feared secret-police force and a highly professional intelligence service. He inquires into the mechanisms of dictatorship and the day-to-day effects of surveillance and suspicion. Masterful and thorough at once, he takes the reader through t