

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812986803321
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Titolo	First strike : America, terrorism, and moral tradition // Mark Totten
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2010
ISBN	0-300-16864-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (vi, 218 p.))
Disciplina	172/.42
Soggetti	Terrorism - Prevention - Government policy - United States Just war doctrine War - Moral and ethical aspects - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The turn toward prevention -- "Against our traditions"? -- Just war at home in America -- Early modern rivals -- Anticipation in a state of nature -- Evolution and eclipse -- Revision -- Behind Webster's rule -- Beyond Webster's rule.
Sommario/riassunto	Can the use of force first against a less-than-imminent threat be both morally acceptable and consistent with American values? In this timely book Mark Totten offers the first in-depth, historical examination of the use of preemptive and preventive force through the lens of the just war tradition. Although critical of the American incursion into Iraq as a so-called "preemptive war," Totten argues that the new terrorist threat nonetheless demands careful consideration of when the first use of force is legitimate. The moral tradition, he concludes, provides a principled way forward that reconciles American values and the demands of security.