1. Record Nr. UNINA9910813090203321 Autore Shumway David R **Titolo** Creating American civilization: a genealogy of American literature as an academic discipline / / David R. Shumway Minneapolis, : University of Minnesota Press, c1994 Pubbl/distr/stampa 0-8166-8482-0 **ISBN** Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (424 p.) Collana American culture ; ; v. 11 Disciplina 810/.7/073 American literature - Study and teaching - United States - History Soggetti American literature - History and criticism - Theory, etc Canon (Literature) United States Civilization Study and teaching Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. 361-389) and index. Nota di contenuto Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction: The History of a Discipline; Part I. Beginnings; 1. The Literary in America, 1890-1920; 2. Preprofessional History and Criticism; 3. English as a Discursive Practice; Part II. Institutionalization; 4. American Literature as a Discipline: Constituting the Object; 5. Institutionalizing American Literature: 6. American Literature in the Curriculum: Part III. Creating American Civilization; 7. The Triumph of the Aesthetic; 8. Left Criticism and the New York Intellectuals; 9. Civilization ""Discovered""; Epilogue: A Trailer: Notes: Index: A: B: C: D: E: F GH; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y Sommario/riassunto David R. Shumway contends that American literature is the product of study - the deliberate invention of a discipline seeking to define the character and legitimate the existence of a specifically American civilization. He traces the various reconstitutions of American literature by examining the discipline's practices and techniques, discourses and structures, paradigms and unstated assumptions. This genealogy begins around 1890, when American literature as defined by institutions outside the academy, such as magazines and publishing

houses, acquired much of the ideology it would display in la