

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910813911703321
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Titolo	George Kennan and the dilemmas of US foreign policy // David Mayers
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 1988
ISBN	0-19-773346-8 0-19-987911-7 1-280-52471-5 1-4237-3463-7 0-19-534511-8 1-60256-606-2
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (417 pages)
Collana	Oxford scholarship online.
Disciplina	327.2/092/4
Soggetti	Ambassadors - United States Historians - United States United States Foreign relations 20th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliography: p. 375-394 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Chronology; Introduction; I: EARLY CAREER; 1. Early Influences and Development; 2. First Tour in the Soviet Union; 3. Criticisms and Recommendations; 4. Nazi Germany and the Future of Europe; 5. Soviet War Aims and the Grand Alliance; II: MAKING FOREIGN POLICY; 6. Containment and the Primacy of Diplomacy; 7. Cold War in Europe; 8. Far Eastern Dilemmas; 9. Two Ambassadorships; III: ON THE SIDELINES; 10. Cold War Critic; 11. America and the Third World; 12. War and Protest; 13. Detente and the Nuclear Arms Race; 14. Diplomacy and the Politics of Amelioration; Notes; Bibliography IndexA; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; Q; R; S; T; U; V; W; X; Y; Z
Sommario/riassunto	One of a select group of American foreign service officers to receive specialized training on the Soviet Union in the late 1920s and early 1930s, George Frost Kennan eventually became the American government 's chief expert on Soviet affairs during the height of the Cold War. Drawing upon a wealth of original research, David Mayers'

fascinating life of George Kennan examines his high-level participation in foreign policy-making and interprets his political and philosophical development within a historical framework. Mayers presents an engaging and lucid account of Kennan 's training; his rise to prominence during the late 1940s and his policy failures; and his later roles as critic of America 's external policy, advocate of d'etente with the Soviet Union, and proponent of nuclear arms limitation.

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