

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910813968103321
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Titolo	The quest for the lost nation : writing history in Germany and Japan in the American century // Sebastian Conrad ; translated by Alan Nothnagle
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2010
ISBN	1-282-69770-6 9786612697708 0-520-94581-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (400 p.)
Collana	The California world history library ; ; 12
Disciplina	943.086072/043
Soggetti	Historiography - Germany - History - 20th century World War, 1939-1945 - Influence World War, 1939-1945 - Social aspects - Germany World War, 1939-1945 - Social aspects - Japan Cold War - Social aspects - Germany Cold War - Social aspects - Japan Japan History 20th century Germany Historiography Japan Historiography
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- Introduction -- Chapter One. Mapping Postwar Historiography in Germany and Japan -- Chapter Two. The Origin of the Nation -- Chapter Three. The Nation as Victim -- Chapter Four. The Invention of Contemporary History -- Chapter Five. The Temporalization of Space -- Chapter Six. History and Memory -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	Highly praised when published in Germany, The Quest for the Lost Nation is a brilliant chronicle of Germany's and Japan's struggles to reclaim a defeated national past. Sebastian Conrad compares the ways German and Japanese scholars revised national history after World War II in the shadows of fascism, surrender, and American occupation.

Defeat in 1945 marked the death of the national past in both countries, yet, as Conrad proves, historians did not abandon national perspectives during reconstruction. Quite the opposite-the nation remained hidden at the center of texts as scholars tried to make sense of the past and searched for fragments of the nation they had lost. By situating both countries in the Cold War, Conrad shows that the focus on the nation can be understood only within a transnational context.
