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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgements -- Note on Texts -- Introduction: No Offence in the World -- 1 A Globe of Sinful Continents: Shakespeare Thinks the World -- 2 Too Long for a Play: Shakespeare and the Wars of Religion -- 3 Shakespeare in Hate: Performing the Virgin Queen -- 4 No Enemy But Winter: Shakespeare's Rogue State -- 5 Fools of Time: Shakespeare and the Martyrs -- 6 Veiling an Indian Beauty: Shakespeare and the Hijab -- 7 When Golden Time Convents: Shakespeare and the Shah -- 8 Like an Olympian Wrestling: Shakespeare's Olympic Game -- 9 As Mice by Lions: Political Theology and Measure for Measure -- 10 Incensing Relics: All's Well That Ends Well in Shakespeare's Spain -- Epilogue: Flower Power in Bohemia -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The first study to consider Shakespeare's plays through the lens of contemporary agonistic political philosophyIn Worldly Shakespeare Richard Wilson proposes that the universalism proclaimed in the name of Shakespeare's playhouse was tempered by his own worldliness, the performative idea that runs through his plays, that if 'All the world's a stage', then 'all the men and women in it' are 'merely players'.Situating this playacting in the context of current concerns about the difference between globalization and mondialisation, the book considers how this drama offers itself as a model for a planet governed not according to

universal toleration, but the right to offend: 'But with good will'. For when he asks us to think we 'have but slumbered' throughout his offensive plays, Wilson suggests, Shakespeare is presenting a drama without catharsis, which anticipates post-structuralist thinkers like Jacques Rancière and Slavoj Žižek, who insist the essence of democracy is dissent, and 'the presence of two worlds in one'. Living out his scenario of the guest who destroys the host, by welcoming the religious terrorist, paranoid queen, veiled woman, papist diehard, or puritan fundamentalist into his play-world, *Worldly Shakespeare* concludes, the dramatist instead provides a pretext for our globalized communities in a time of Facebook and fatwa, as we also come to depend on the right to offend 'with our good will'.

**Key Features** A discussion of the relevance of Shakespeare's conflictual drama to twenty-first century thinking about universalism and globalization. A historical account that situates Shakespeare's theatre against the backdrop of Europe's Wars of Religion. A wide-ranging meditation on Shakespeare's staging of questions about democracy, martyrdom, terrorism, surveillance, veiling and violence.

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