

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816324503321
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Titolo	Small-town martyrs and murderers : religious revolution and counterrevolution in western France, 1774-1914 // Edward J. Woell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Milwaukee, WI, : Marquette University Press, c2006
ISBN	0-87462-465-7 1-4356-1068-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (292 pages) : illustrations, maps
Collana	Marquette studies in history ; ; no. 1
Disciplina	944.167
Soggetti	France History 18th century Machecoul (France) History Machecoul (France) Religious life and customs France History Revolution, 1789-1799 Atrocities France History Revolution, 1789-1799 Religious aspects France History Wars of the Vendee, 1793-1832 Atrocities
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. [259]-275) and index.
Nota di contenuto	short title page; title page; copyright page; acknowledgements; table of contents; list of illustrations; abbreviations for notes; epigram; Introduction; 1: Where the Spirit Dwelt; 2: The Good Old Days; 3: A Higher Law; 4: Two Stories; 5: A Memory of Holy War; Epilogue; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	On March 11, 1793, about a thousand counterrevolutionary rebels converged on the small French town of Machecoul and over the next six weeks killed many of its revolutionary officials and supporters. The massacres at Machecoul marked the beginning of a popular insurgency in western France called the War of Vendee, in turn igniting the ferocious republican response known today as the Terror. This story explores why these small-town massacres occurred, how they may have unfolded, and what the local and national repercussions of the murders were.