

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910519308103321
Autore	Filippini, Caterina
Titolo	Autonomie e autogoverno locale in Russia : dall'unità del potere statale all'unità del potere pubblico: ricostruzione di un modello / Caterina Filippini
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Torino, : Giappichelli, 2020
ISBN	978-88-921-3038-8 978-88-921-8330-8
Descrizione fisica	X, 223 p. ; 23 cm
Collana	Studi di Federalismi.it ; 30
Disciplina	342.47094
Locazione	FSPBC
Collocazione	COLLEZ. 2880 (30)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Contiene bibl. (pp. 207-223)

2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820312503321
Autore	Wortman Richard S
Titolo	Scenarios of power : myth and ceremony in Russian monarchy from Peter the Great to the abdication of Nicholas II / / Richard S. Wortman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, New Jersey ; ; Oxfordshire, England : , : Princeton University Press, , 2006 ©2006
ISBN	1-4008-4969-1
Edizione	[New Abridged One-Volume]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (509 p.)
Collana	Studies of the Harriman Institute Columbia University
Classificazione	ME 2100
Disciplina	947
Soggetti	HISTORY / Russia & the Former Soviet Union Russia Social life and customs 18th century Russia Social life and customs 19th century Russia Court and courtiers Russia Kings and rulers
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 -- Illustration -- Abbreviations -- Prefatory Note -- Introduction. Scenario of Power -- PART ONE. The European Myth -- CHAPTER ONE. Signs of Empire -- CHAPTER TWO. Peter the Great -- CHAPTER THREE. Olympian Scenarios -- CHAPTER FOUR. The Education of Princes and the Dilemma of Neoclassicism -- CHAPTER FIVE. The Emperor Paul I -- CHAPTER SIX. The Angel on the Throne -- CHAPTER SEVEN. Nicholas I -- CHAPTER EIGHT. Epitomes of the Nation -- CHAPTER NINE. Parents and Son -- CHAPTER TEN. Alexander II and the Scenario of Love -- CHAPTER ELEVEN. The Tsar-Emancipator -- CHAPTER TWELVE. The Crisis of Autocracy -- PART TWO: A National Myth -- CHAPTER THIRTEEN. The Making of a Russian Tsar -- CHAPTER FOURTEEN. The Inauguration of a National Myth -- CHAPTER FIFTEEN. The Resurrection of Muscovy -- CHAPTER SIXTEEN. The Life and Death of a Russian Tsar -- CHAPTER SEVENTEEN. Nicholas II as Heir and Husband -- CHAPTER EIGHTEEN. The Accession and Coronation of Nicholas II -- CHAPTER NINETEEN. Demonstrations of Godliness -- CHAPTER TWENTY. Nicholas II and the Revolution of 1905 -- CHAPTER

Sommario/riassunto

This new and abridged edition of *Scenarios of Power* is a concise version of Richard Wortman's award-winning study of Russian monarchy from the seventeenth century until 1917. The author breaks new ground by showing how imperial ceremony and imagery were not simply displays of the majesty of the sovereign and his entourage, but also instruments central to the exercise of absolute power in a multinational empire. In developing this interpretation, Wortman presents vivid descriptions of coronations, funerals, parades, trips through the realm, and historical celebrations and reveals how these ceremonies were constructed or reconstructed to fit the political and cultural narratives in the lives and reigns of successive tsars. He describes the upbringing of the heirs as well as their roles in these narratives and relates their experiences to the persistence of absolute monarchy in Russia long after its demise in Europe.

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