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Autore	Smith-Rosenberg Carroll
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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: "What, then, is the American, this new man?" -- Section 1. The new American-as-republican citizen -- Prologue 1: The drums of war/the thrust of empire -- Fusions and confusions -- Rebellious dandies and political fictions -- American Minervas -- Section 2. Dangerous doubles -- Prologue 2: Masculinity and masquerade -- Seeing red -- Subject female : authorizing an American identity -- Section 3. The new American-as-bourgeois gentleman -- Prologue 3:

The ball -- Choreographing class/performing gentility -- Polished gentlemen, troublesome women, and dancing slaves -- Black gothic.

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Sommario/riassunto

This study traces the origins of American violence, racism, and paranoia to the founding moments of the new nation and the initial instability of Americans' national sense of self. It explores how the founding generation, lacking a common history, governmental infrastructures, and shared culture, solidified their national sense of self by imagining a series of 'others' (African Americans, Native Americans, women, the propertyless) whose differences from European American male founders overshadowed the differences that divided those founders.

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