

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910821286003321
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Titolo	Imperial masochism : British fiction, fantasy, and social class // John Kucich
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, c2007
ISBN	1-282-12968-6 9786612129681 1-4008-2740-X
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (272 p.)
Disciplina	823/.89353
Soggetti	English fiction - 19th century - History and criticism Masochism in literature Social classes in literature Imperialism in literature Great Britain Colonies History 19th century
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 -- Acknowledgments -- A Note On Texts -- Introduction. Fantasy and Ideology -- Chapter One. Melancholy Magic -- Chapter Two. Olive Schreiner's Preoedipal Dreams -- Chapter Three. Sadomasochism and the Magical Group -- Chapter Four. The Masochism of the Craft -- Conclusion -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	British imperialism's favorite literary narrative might seem to be conquest. But real British conquests also generated a surprising cultural obsession with suffering, sacrifice, defeat, and melancholia. "There was," writes John Kucich, "seemingly a different crucifixion scene marking the historical gateway to each colonial theater." In <i>Imperial Masochism</i> , Kucich reveals the central role masochistic forms of voluntary suffering played in late-nineteenth-century British thinking about imperial politics and class identity. Placing the colonial writers Robert Louis Stevenson, Olive Schreiner, Rudyard Kipling, and Joseph Conrad in their cultural context, Kucich shows how the ideological and psychological dynamics of empire, particularly its reorganization of class identities at the colonial periphery, depended on figurations of

masochism. Drawing on recent psychoanalytic theory to define masochism in terms of narcissistic fantasies of omnipotence rather than sexual perversion, the book illuminates how masochism mediates political thought of many different kinds, not simply those that represent the social order as an opposition of mastery and submission, or an eroticized drama of power differentials. Masochism was a powerful psychosocial language that enabled colonial writers to articulate judgments about imperialism and class. The first full-length study of masochism in British colonial fiction, *Imperial Masochism* puts forth new readings of this literature and shows the continued relevance of psychoanalysis to historicist studies of literature and culture.

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