1.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910821980303321
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	Titolo	Practical soldiers : Israel's military thought and its formative factors / / by Avi Kober
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden, Netherlands ; ; Boston, [Massachusetts] : , : Brill, , 2016 ©2016
	ISBN	90-04-30686-2
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (210 p.)
	Collana	History of Warfare, , 1385-7827 ; ; Volume 107
	Disciplina	355.03355694
	Soggetti	Israel Armed Forces History 21st 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	Preliminary Material 1 Military Thought and the Formative Factors Affecting It 2 Israeli Intellectual and Modern Focus 3 Systemic Formative Factors 4 Unit (State)-Level Factors 5 Conclusion Appendix Bibliography Index.
	Sommario/riassunto	This book suggests a general framework for the analysis of formative factors in military thought and offers an account of the Israel Defense Force's state of intellectualism and modernity. This account is followed by an attempt to trace the factors that have shaped Israeli military thought. The explanations are a mixture of realist and non-realist factors, which can be found at both the systemic and the state level of analysis. At the systemic level, realist evaluations focus on factors such as the dominance of the technological dimension and the pervasiveness of asymmetrical, low-intensity conflict; whereas at the state level one can find realist explanations, cultural factors, and societal influences. Moral and legal constraints also factor into both the systemic and state levels.