

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910823576903321
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Titolo	Catholicism and the shaping of 19th century America // Jon Gjerde ; edited by S. Deborah Kang
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2012
ISBN	1-139-19976-5 1-107-22848-4 1-280-56843-7 9786613598035 1-139-20567-6 0-511-84575-8 1-139-20348-7 1-139-20207-3 1-139-20646-X 1-139-20488-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 273 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	HIS036040
Altri autori (Persone)	KangS. Deborah <1970->
Disciplina	277.3/07
Soggetti	Christianity - United States - Influence Protestant churches - Relations - Catholic Church United States Church history 19th century United States History 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: 1. Editor's preface S. Deborah Kang; 2. Introduction Jon Gjerde; 3. The Protestant conundrum Jon Gjerde; The Catholic conundrum Jon Gjerde; 4. Conversion and the West Jon Gjerde; 5. Schools and the state Jon Gjerde; 6. Protestant and Catholic critiques of family and women Jon Gjerde; 7. The American economy and social justice Jon Gjerde; 8. Epilogue S. Deborah Kang.
Sommario/riassunto	Offers a series of fresh perspectives on America's encounter with Catholicism in the nineteenth-century. While religious and immigration historians have construed this history in univocal terms, Jon Gjerde bridges sectarian divides by presenting Protestants and Catholics in

conversation with each other. In so doing, Gjerde reveals the ways in which America's encounter with Catholicism was much more than a story about American nativism. Nineteenth-century religious debates raised questions about the fundamental underpinnings of the American state and society: the shape of the antebellum market economy, gender roles in the American family, and the place of slavery were only a few of the issues engaged by Protestants and Catholics in a lively and enduring dialectic. While the question of the place of Catholics in America was left unresolved, the very debates surrounding this question generated multiple conceptions of American pluralism and American national identity.
