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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [353]-371) and index.
Nota di contenuto	A slave society : Virginia in the 1850s -- Boastful and belligerent champions of southern institutions : slavery and politics, 1851-1854 -- A uniform spirit of lawlessness : the problem of runaways -- A spirit of license in the guise of liberty : the survival of opposition, 1854-1856 -- The darkest and most perilous hours of our national existence : the deepening sectional crisis, 1856-1859 -- A black demon of fanaticism : Harpers Ferry and the election of 1860 -- To light the torch of servile insurrection : the secession crisis.
Sommario/riassunto	This text studies the role of slaves and free blacks in the politics of secession in antebellum Virginia. It places African Americans at the centre of events and argues that their acts of rebellion had powerful political repercussions throughout the period prior to the Civil War.

