

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910823827003321
Autore	Laderman Scott <1971->
Titolo	Empire in waves : a political history of surfing // Scott Laderman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, California : , : University of California Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-520-27911-5 0-520-95804-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (251 p.)
Collana	Sport in World History ; ; 1
Disciplina	797.3/2
Soggetti	Surfing - History Surfing - Political aspects
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 -- Introduction: A Political History of Surfing -- 1. How Surfing Became American: The Imperial Roots of Modern Surf Culture -- 2. A World Made Safe for Discovery: Travel, Cultural Diplomacy, and the Politics of Surf Exploration -- 3. Paradise Found: The Discovery of Indonesia and the Surfing Imagination -- 4. When Surfing Discovered It Was Political: Confronting South African Apartheid -- 5. Industrial Surfing: The Commodification of Experience -- Epilogue: A New Millennium -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Surfing today evokes many things: thundering waves, warm beaches, bikinis and lifeguards, and carefree pleasure. But is the story of surfing really as simple as popular culture suggests? In this first international political history of the sport, Scott Laderman shows that while wave riding is indeed capable of stimulating tremendous pleasure, its globalization went hand in hand with the blood and repression of the long twentieth century. Emerging as an imperial instrument in post-annexation Hawaii, spawning a form of tourism that conquered the littoral Third World, tracing the struggle against South African apartheid, and employed as a diplomatic weapon in America's Cold War arsenal, the saga of modern surfing is only partially captured by Gidget, the Beach Boys, and the film Blue Crush. From nineteenth-century

American empire-building in the Pacific to the low-wage labor of the surf industry today, Laderman argues that surfing in fact closely mirrored American foreign relations. Yet despite its less-than-golden past, the sport continues to captivate people worldwide. Whether in El Salvador or Indonesia or points between, the modern history of this cherished pastime is hardly an uncomplicated story of beachside bliss. Sometimes messy, occasionally contentious, but never dull, surfing offers us a whole new way of viewing our globalized world.

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