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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1 Victory of LAW: Melville and Reconstruction -- 2 Shadows of Law: Somerset and the Literature of Abolition -- 3 Constitutional Disobedience: Thoreau, Sumner, and the Transcendental Law of the 1850s -- 4 Legal Sentences: Hawthorne's Sovereign Performatives and Hermeneutics of Freedom -- 5 John Bingham's Poetic Constitution -- Notes -- Index -- A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- P -- R -- S -- T -- U -- W.
Sommario/riassunto	This interdisciplinary study sheds light on the transformative significance of emerging legalist and constitutionalist forms of antislavery thinking on the literature of the 1850s and 1860s and the growing centrality of aesthetic considerations to antebellum American legal theory and practice--the historical terms in which a distinctively American cultural identity was conceived.