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Autore	Dattel Eugene R
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Nota di contenuto	Part 1: Slavery in the Making of the Constitution; Chapter 1: The Silent Issue at the Constitutional Convention; Part 2: The Engine of American Growth, 1787-1861; Chapter 2: Birth of an Obsession; Chapter 3: Land Expansion and White Migration to the Old Southwest; Chapter 4: The Movement of Slaves to the Cotton States; Chapter 5: The Business of Cotton; Chapter 6: The Roots of War; Part 3: The North: For Whites Only, 1800-1865; Chapter 7: Being Free and Black in the North; Chapter 8: The Colonial North; Chapter 9: Race Moves West; Chapter 10: Tocqueville on Slavery, Race, and Money in America Part 4: King Cotton Buys a WarChapter 11: Cultivating a Crop, Cultivating a Strategy; Chapter 12: Great Britain and the Civil War;

Chapter 13: Cotton and Confederate Finance; Chapter 14: Procuring Arms; Chapter 15: Cotton Trading in the United States; Chapter 16: Cotton and the Freedmen; Part 5: The Racial Divide and Cotton Labor, 1865-1930; Chapter 17: New Era, Old Problems; Chapter 18: Ruling the Freedmen in the Cotton Fields; Chapter 19: Reconstruction Meets Reality; Chapter 20: The Black Hand on the Cotton Boll; Chapter 21: From Cotton Field to Urban Ghetto: The Chicago Experience
Part 6: Cotton Without Slaves, 1865-1930
Chapter 22: King Cotton Expands; Chapter 23: The Controlling Laws of Cotton Finance; Chapter 24: The Delta Plantation: Labor and Land; Chapter 25: The Planter Experience in the Twentieth Century; Chapter 26: The Long-Awaited Mechanical Cotton Picker; Chapter 27: The Abdication of King Cotton

Sommario/riassunto

Since the earliest days of colonial America, the relationship between cotton and the African-American experience has been central to the history of the republic. America's most serious social tragedy, slavery and its legacy, spread only where cotton could be grown. Both before and after the Civil War, blacks were assigned to the cotton fields while a pervasive racial animosity and fear of a black migratory invasion caused white Northerners to contain blacks in the South.
