1. Record Nr. UNINA9910828037703321 Autore Housden Martyn <1962-> Titolo On their own behalf: Ewald Ammende, Europe's national minorities and the campaign for cultural autonomy 1920-1936 / / Martyn Housden Amsterdam, Netherlands: New York, New York: .: Brill, . [2014] Pubbl/distr/stampa ©2014 **ISBN** 94-012-1147-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (429 pages) Collana On the boundary of two worlds: identity, freedom, and moral imagination in the Baltics;; 37 Disciplina 305.8 Soggetti Minorities-Europe Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Preliminary Material -- Why Baltic History is more difficult to write than Nota di contenuto German History -- Brave new world: enterprise and aid -- Liberal nationalist -- Becoming a minority -- Achieving cultural autonomy --Minority interests—European interests—global interests -- Establishing the European Congress of Nationalities -- The General Secretary: early optimism and its frustrations -- 1929: year of the minorities --International national community thinking and a different kind of Pan-Europe -- Critical challenges -- The new nationalist wave -- When friends won't help -- Aftermath -- Fateful context -- At Stalin's throat -- Admitting defeat -- The need for more histories of national minorities -- Bibliography -- Index. Sommario/riassunto What form should Europe take? Should it be based on 'nation states' or 'states of nations'? On what basis should European unification proceed? Should it be an élite undertaking pioneered by statesmen elected to democratic government offices, or should true unification also demand a significant European cultural forum open to spokesmen and -women representing the continent's nationality groups? Was the League of Nations really such a thing? Or was it a League of States? All these questions were posed by Ewald Ammende and his fellow minority

associates during the 1920s. Coming to terms with the consequences of collapsed empires and at least four years of conflict, they were forced to consider how best to re-build their continent as if it were a

tabula rasa . In the process, they provided intelligent, perceptive analyses of the national and international affairs of the day, particularly as they affected Central and Eastern Europe. Their voices, reflecting their status as national minorities and a geographical location beyond the borders of the post-war Great Powers, deserve to be written more thoroughly into the history of the interwar years. Their ideas still provide food for thought even today.