1. Record Nr. UNINA9910828866203321 Autore Lofton Kathryn Titolo Oprah: The Gospel of an Icon / / Kathryn Lofton Pubbl/distr/stampa Berkeley, CA:,: University of California Press,, [2011] ©2011 **ISBN** 1-283-27750-6 9786613277503 0-520-94824-6 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (304 p.) Disciplina 306.60973/090511 Soggetti Celebrities Religion and culture - Religious aspects - United States Popular culture North & South American Religions Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction --Chapter 1. Practicing Purchase: The Prosperity Gospel of a Spiritual Capitalism -- Chapter 2. Celebrity Spirit: The Incorporation of Your Best Life -- Chapter 3. Diverting Conversions: The Makeover as Social Rite -- Chapter 4. Preacher Queen: The Race and Gender of America's Confessor -- Chapter 5. Reading Religiously: The Reformations of Oprah's Book Club -- Chapter 6. Missionary Gift: The Globalization of Inspiration -- Conclusion -- Epilogue: Political Spirituality, or the Oprahfication of Obama -- Notes -- Index "Today on Oprah," intoned the TV announcer, and all over America Sommario/riassunto viewers tuned in to learn, empathize, and celebrate. In this book, Kathryn Lofton investigates the Oprah phenomenon and finds in Winfrey's empire-Harpo Productions, O Magazine, and her new television network-an uncanny reflection of religion in modern society. Lofton shows that when Oprah liked, needed, or believed something,

she offered her audience nothing less than spiritual revolution, reinforced by practices that fuse consumer behavior, celebrity ambition, and religious idiom. In short, Oprah Winfrey is a media

messiah for a secular age. Lofton's unique approach also situates the Oprah enterprise culturally, illuminating how Winfrey reflects and continues historical patterns of American religions.