

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910845065703321
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Titolo	Natura, Politica e Popolazione
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Florence : , : Firenze University Press, , 2023 ©2023
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (52 pages)
Collana	Lectio Magistralis Series ; ; v.22
Disciplina	303.66
Soggetti	War - Environmental aspects War and society
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	During the first XXth century, war, violence, forced migration, man-made famines, and epidemics were responsible of tens of million deaths. They left deep scars in the survivors, altered the equilibrium between genders and between generations, and affected in multiple ways the European demographic system, including the geographical distribution of the population. The collapse of multinational empires led to the identification of the State with the nation, and of the nation with an ethnic group, and bred an intolerant hyper-ethnicism, culminated in ferocious episodes of ethnic cleansing and genocide. This book is about the victims of these unrests, caused by political choices, and it carries out an analysis of the elements that led to the convincement that States could manipulate the number, the structure and the distribution of populations.