

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910957401203321
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Titolo	Countering the counterculture : rereading postwar American dissent from Jack Kerouac to Tomas Rivera / / Manuel Luis Martinez
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Madison, : University of Wisconsin Press, c2003
ISBN	9786612269431 9780299192839 0299192830 9781282269439 1282269437
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (365 p.)
Disciplina	810.9/358
Soggetti	American literature - 20th century - History and criticism Beats (Persons) American literature - Mexican American authors - History and criticism Literature and society - United States - History - 20th century Counterculture - United States - History - 20th century Mexican Americans - Intellectual life Mexican Americans in literature Social problems in literature Libertarianism in literature Dissenters in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 335-348) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: Dissent and the American Culture of Mobility -- Part 1. The Roots of Postwar Dissent and the Counterculture -- 1. "No Fear Like Invasion": Movement, Absorption, and Stasis Horror in the Beat Vision -- 2. "With Imperious Eye": Kerouac's Fellaheen Western -- 3. Civitas and Its Discontents: The Lone Hunter Pleads the Fourth -- Part 2. The Americano Narrative: Postwar Mexican American Dissent and Community -- 4. Historian with a Sour Stomach: Zeta's Americano Journey -- 5. Mapping el Movimiento: Somewhere between América

and Aztlan -- 6. Arriving at el Pueblo Libre: The Insistence of Americanismo -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

Rebelling against bourgeois vacuity and taking their countercultural critique on the road, the Beat writers and artists have long symbolized a spirit of freedom and radical democracy. Manuel Martinez offers an eye-opening challenge to this characterization of the Beats, juxtaposing them against Chicano nationalists like Raul Salinas, Jose Montoya, Luis Valdez, and Oscar Acosta and Mexican migrant writers in the United States, like Tomas Rivera and Ernesto Galarza. In an innovative rereading of American radical politics and culture of the 1950s and 1960s, Martinez uncovers reactionary, neoromantic, and sometimes racist strains in the Beats' vision of freedom, and he brings to the fore the complex stances of Latinos on participant democracy and progressive culture. He analyzes the ways that Beats, Chicanos, and migrant writers conceived of and articulated social and political perspectives. He contends that both the Beats' extreme individualism and the Chicano nationalists' narrow vision of citizenship are betrayals of the democratic ideal, but that the migrant writers presented a distinctly radical and inclusive vision of democracy that was truly countercultural.
