

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910961495803321
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Titolo	Writing after war : American war fiction from realism to postmodernism // John Limon
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York ; , : Oxford University Press, , 2023
ISBN	0-19-772695-X 1-280-44289-1 1-4237-3860-8 0-19-535859-7 1-60129-967-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (266 p.)
Collana	Oxford scholarship online
Disciplina	813.009/358
Soggetti	War stories, American - History and criticism American fiction - 20th century - History and criticism American fiction - 19th century - History and criticism Postmodernism (Literature) - United States Realism - In literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 1994.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; 1. The Art of War: The Contest and the Duel; 2. Swords to Words: Realism and the Civil War; 3. Goddesses on the Battlefield: The Combatant Novels of Tourgee, Cable, and De Forest; 4. Temporal Form and Wartime: Modernism After World War I; 5. The Postmodernization of World War II; 6. Diversions: A Theory of the Vietnam Sports Novel; 7. Family Likenesses: War in Women's Words; Afterword; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This treatise develops a theory of the relationship of war in general to literature in general, to make sense of American literary history in particular. "The Iliad", argues the author, inaugurates literary history on the failure of war to be formally beautiful.