

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910962851803321
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Titolo	Historical dictionary of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation // Hans J. Hillerbrand
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000 Chicago ; ; London : , : Fitzroy Dearborn, , 2000
ISBN	9781136596773 1136596771 9780203058688 0203058682 9781299459250 1299459250 9781136596704 1136596704
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (300 p.)
Disciplina	270.6/03
Soggetti	Reformation Counter-Reformation
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Editor's Foreword; Preface; Introduction; Chronology; The Dictionary; Bibliography; About the Author
Sommario/riassunto	The Reformation of the 16th century has always been seen as one of the pivotal events in European history. Lord Acton, the famous 19th-century British historian, compared the importance of Martin Luther's speech at the diet at Worms in 1521 with Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in 1813. Lord Acton's may or may not be an extravagant claim, but it is certainly true that the events of the 16th and 17th centuries, now called the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, changed forever the religious and political history of the West. The Historical Dictionary of the Reformation an

