

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910968169903321
Autore	Shepherd Ben
Titolo	Terror in the Balkans : German armies and partisan warfare / / Ben Shepherd
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 2012
ISBN	9780674065130 0674065131 9780674069435 0674069439
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (375 p.)
Disciplina	940.53/497
Soggetti	World War, 1939-1945 - Yugoslavia World War, 1939-1945 - Underground movements - Yugoslavia Yugoslavia History Axis occupation, 1941-1945
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. Before the Great War -- Chapter 2. Forging a Wartime Mentality -- Chapter 3. Bridging Two Hells -- Chapter 4. Invasion and Occupation -- Chapter 5. Islands in an Insurgent Sea -- Chapter 6. Settling Accounts in Blood -- Chapter 7. Standing Divided -- Chapter 8. Glimmers of Sanity -- Chapter 9. The Morass -- Chapter 10. The Devil's Division -- Conclusion -- Appendices. Abbreviations. Notes. Acknowledgments. Index -- Appendix A. Source References for Featured Officers -- Appendix B. Note on the Primary Sources -- Abbreviations -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Germany's 1941 seizure of Yugoslavia led to an insurgency as bloody as any in World War II. The Wehrmacht waged a brutal counter-insurgency campaign in response, and by 1943 German troops in Yugoslavia were engaged in operations that ranked among the largest of the entire European war. Their actions encompassed massive reprisal shootings, the destruction of entire villages, and huge mobile operations unleashed not just against insurgents but also against the civilian population believed to be aiding them. Terror in the Balkans

explores the reasons behind the Wehrmacht's extreme security measures in southern and eastern Europe. Ben Shepherd focuses his study not on the high-ranking generals who oversaw the campaign but on lower-level units and their officers, a disproportionate number of whom were of Austrian origin. He uses Austro-Hungarian army records to consider how the personal experiences of many Austrian officers during the Great War played a role in brutalizing their behavior in Yugoslavia. A comparison of Wehrmacht counter-insurgency divisions allows Shepherd to analyze how a range of midlevel commanders and their units conducted themselves in different parts of Yugoslavia, and why. Shepherd concludes that the Wehrmacht campaign's violence was driven not just by National Socialist ideology but also by experience of the fratricidal infighting of Yugoslavia's ethnic groups, by conditions on the ground, and by doctrines that had shaped the military mindsets of both Germany and Austria since the late nineteenth century. He also considers why different Wehrmacht units exhibited different degrees of ruthlessness and restraint during the campaign.
