

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910968570703321
Autore	Shepherd Ben (Benjamin V.)
Titolo	War in the wild East : the German Army and Soviet partisans / / Ben Shepherd
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 2004
ISBN	9780674043558 0674043553
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (327 p.)
Disciplina	940.54/05/0947
Soggetti	World War, 1939-1945 - Destruction and pillage World War, 1939-1945 - Destruction and pillage - Soviet Union World War, 1939-1945 - Atrocities World War, 1939-1945 - Atrocities - Soviet Union Soviet Union History German occupation, 1941-1944
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. 295) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction: Toward a War of Extermination -- 1. "Success Comes Only through Terror": The German Experience of Antiguerrilla Warfare -- 2. "Jew-Bolsheviks," Civilians, and Partisans: The Opening Phase, 1941 -- 3. Bloodshed Mushrooms: The Escalating Security Campaign, 1941 -- 4. The Rules Change: Partisan Surge and German Response, 1942 -- 5. More of the Sugar, Less of the Whip: The Battle for Popular Support, 1942 -- 6. Locusts in Field Gray: The Dead Zones Campaign, 1943 -- 7. Fear in the Forest: The War at Close Quarters, 1942 and 1943 -- Conclusion: Reap as You Sow, 1943 and 1944 -- Appendix A. Larger Antipartisan Operations Carried Out by the 221st Security Division, December 1942– April 1943 -- Appendix B. Atrocities Committed by the 221st Security Division's Subordinate Units, March 1942– August 1943 -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations and Translations -- Notes -- Bibliography of Primary Sources -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In Nazi eyes, the Soviet Union was the "wild east," a savage region ripe for exploitation, its subhuman inhabitants destined for extermination or helotry. An especially brutal dimension of the German army's eastern

war was its anti-partisan campaign. This conflict brought death and destruction to thousands of Soviet civilians, and has been held as a prime example of ordinary German soldiers participating in the Nazi regime's annihilation policies. Ben Shepherd enters the heated debate over the wartime behavior of the Wehrmacht in a detailed study of the motivation and conduct of its anti-partisan campaign in the Soviet Union. He investigates how anti-partisan warfare was conducted, not by the generals, but by the far more numerous, average Germans serving as officers in the field. What shaped their behavior was more complex than Nazi ideology alone. The influence of German society, as well as of party and army, together with officers' grueling yet diverse experience of their environment and enemy, made them perceive the anti-partisan war in varied ways. Reactions ranged from extreme brutality to relative restraint; some sought less to terrorize the native population than to try to win it over. The emerging picture does not dilute the suffering the Wehrmacht's eastern war inflicted. It shows, however, that properly judging ordinary Germans' role in that war is more complicated than is indicated by either wholesale condemnation or wholesale exoneration. This valuable study offers a nuanced discussion of the diversity of behaviors within the German army, as well as providing a compelling exploration of the war and counterinsurgency operations on the eastern front.
