

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910969047603321
Autore	Nadel Alan <1947->
Titolo	Containment culture : American narrative, postmodernism, and the atomic age / Alan Nadel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Durham, NC, : Duke University Press, 1995
ISBN	9786612904356 9781282904354 1282904353 9780822381976 0822381974
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Collana	New Americanists
Disciplina	973.9
Soggetti	Postmodernism - United States Arts, American - 20th century United States Civilization 1945-
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- PART I THE STRAIGHT STORY AND THE DUAL NATURE -- 1. Appearance, Containment, and Atomic Power -- 2. History, Science, and Hiroshima -- PART II CONTAINMENT CULTURE -- 3. Rhetoric, Sanity, and the Cold War: The Significance of Holden Caulfield's Testimony -- 4. God's Law and the Wide Screen: The Ten Commandments as Cold War "Epic" -- 5. Lady and (or) the Tramp: Sexual Containment and the Domestic Playboy -- PART III DOUBLE OR NOTHING -- 6. The Invasion of Postmodernism: The Catch-22 of the Bay of Pigs and Liberty Valance -- 7. The Rules for Free Speech: Speech Act Theory and the Free Speech Movement -- PART IV TWO NATIONS TOO -- 8. My Country Too: Time, Place, and African American Identity in the Work of John A. Williams -- 9. Race, Rights, Gender, and Personal Narrative: The Archaeology of "Self" in Meridian -- CODA DEMOCRACY -- 10. Failed Cultural Narratives: America in the Postwar Era and the Story of Democracy -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Alan Nadel provides a unique analysis of the rise of American postmodernism by viewing it as a breakdown in Cold War cultural

narratives of containment. These narratives, which embodied an American postwar foreign policy charged with checking the spread of Communism, also operated, Nadel argues, within a wide spectrum of cultural life in the United States to contain atomic secrets, sexual license, gender roles, nuclear energy, and artistic expression. Because these narratives were deployed in films, books, and magazines at a time when American culture was for the first time able to dominate global entertainment and capitalize on global production, containment became one of the most widely disseminated and highly privileged national narratives in history. Examining a broad sweep of American culture, from the work of George Kennan to *Playboy Magazine*, from the movies of Doris Day and Walt Disney to those of Cecil B. DeMille and Alfred Hitchcock, from James Bond to Holden Caulfield, Nadel discloses the remarkable pervasiveness of the containment narrative. Drawing subtly on insights provided by contemporary theorists, including Baudrillard, Foucault, Jameson, Sedgwick, Certeau, and Hayden White, he situates the rhetoric of the Cold War within a gendered narrative powered by the unspoken potency of the atom. He then traces the breakdown of this discourse of containment through such events as the Bay of Pigs invasion and the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley, and ties its collapse to the onset of American postmodernism, typified by works such as *Catch-22* and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence*. An important work of cultural criticism, *Containment Culture* links atomic power with postmodernism and postwar politics, and shows how a multifarious national policy can become part of a nation's cultural agenda and a source of meaning for its citizenry.

---