

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910969430503321
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Titolo	Godly zeal and furious rage : the witch in early modern Europe // G.R. Quaife
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York, : Routledge, 2011, c1987
ISBN	1-280-68786-X 1-136-74026-0 9786613664808 0-203-81902-0
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (249 p.)
Collana	Routledge library editions. Witchcraft ; ; vol. 7
Disciplina	133.43094 940.2
Soggetti	Witchcraft - Europe Occultism - Europe
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First published in 1987.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 210-224) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Godly Zeal and Furious Rage: The Witch in Early Modern Europe; Copyright; Contents; Introduction; 1. Fact and Fantasy: An Overview; 2. Shaping the Image: The Malleus Tradition and its Critics; 3. Magic and Maleficium; 4. Heresy and the Diabolic Cult; 5. Paganism and Popular Religion; 6. Gender, Sex and Misogyny: I; 7. Gender, Sex and Misogyny: II; 8. Ideology and Authority: The Establishment and Witch Hunting; 9. The Law, Torture and Trial; 10. Defamation, Deception and Corruption; 11. Motivation and the Village Community: I, The witch 12. Motivation and the Village Community: II. Victims and Accusers13. Dreams, Drugs and Madness: Conclusion; Select Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Though it is clearly an exceptionally important part of popular culture, witchcraft has generated a variety of often contradictory interpretations, starting from widely differing premises about the nature of witchcraft, its social role and the importance of higher theology as well as more popular beliefs. This work offers a conspectus of historical work on witchcraft in Europe, and shows how many trends converged to form the figure of the witch, and varied from one part of Europe to another.

