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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. Ritual and Reform in Antebellum America -- 2. The Design of Public Executions in the Early American Republic -- 3. The Opposition to Capital Punishment in Post-Revolutionary America -- 4. The Dream of Reformation and the Limits of Reform -- 5. The Origins of Private Executions in America -- 6. Anti-Gallows Activists and the Commitment to Moral Reform -- 7. The Conflict over Capital Punishment in Antebellum America -- Epilogue -- Notes -- Index -- A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- O -- P -- Q -- R -- S -- T -- U -- V -- W -- Y -- Z.
Sommario/riassunto	Louis Masur's account describes how, in the 1830's, public hangings were abandoned in favour of executions in the seclusion of prison yards. Masur sees attitudes toward state killing from the Revolution to the Civil War as reflecting the nation's social thinking.