

1. Record Nr.	UNISANNIOTSA0000715
Titolo	17: Fav-Form
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Milano : Giuffrè, ©1968
ISBN	8814041512
Descrizione fisica	XXV, 1028 p. ; 26 cm.
Disciplina	340.03
Collocazione	02RCOST 349.4503 ENCDD
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910453954403321
Autore	Kingsberg Miriam <1981->
Titolo	Moral nation : modern Japan and narcotics in global history // Miriam Kingsberg
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley : , : University of California Press, , [2013] ©2013
ISBN	0-520-95748-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (325 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Asia: Local Studies / Global Themes ; ; 29 Asia--local studies/global themes ; ; 29
Disciplina	362.29/30952
Soggetti	Drug abuse - Social aspects - Japan - History Drug traffic - Japan - History Electronic books. Japan Civilization 1868- Japan Moral conditions
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

Moral crusade in Meiji Japan -- Drug users in the epicenter of consumption -- Cultural producers and the Japanese empire -- Cultural producers and Manchukuo -- Merchants -- Law enforcement -- Laboratory scientists -- Medical doctors -- Moral panic in postwar Japan.

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## Sommario/riassunto

This trailblazing study examines the history of narcotics in Japan to explain the development of global criteria for political legitimacy in nations and empires in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Japan underwent three distinct crises of sovereignty in its modern history: in the 1890's, during the interwar period, and in the 1950's. Each crisis provoked successively escalating crusades against opium and other drugs, in which moral entrepreneurs--bureaucrats, cultural producers, merchants, law enforcement, scientists, and doctors, among others--focused on drug use as a means of distinguishing between populations fit and unfit for self-rule. *Moral Nation* traces the instrumental role of ideologies about narcotics in the country's efforts to reestablish its legitimacy as a nation and empire. As Kingsberg demonstrates, Japan's growing status as an Asian power and a "moral nation" expanded the notion of "civilization" from an exclusively Western value to a universal one. Scholars and students of Japanese history, Asian studies, world history, and global studies will gain an in-depth understanding of how Japan's experience with narcotics influenced global standards for sovereignty and shifted the aim of nation building, making it no longer a strictly political activity but also a moral obligation to society.

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