

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910132006803321
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Titolo	Poteri signorili e feudali nelle campagne dell'Italia settentrionale fra Tre e Quattrocento : fondamenti di legittimità e forme di esercizio: atti del Convegno di studi, Milano, 11-12 aprile 2003 / / a cura di Federica Cengarle, Giorgio Chittolini, Gian Maria Varanini
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Firenze University Press, 2005 Firenze : , : Firenze University Press, , 2005 ©2005
ISBN	88-8453-254-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (263 pages) : illustrations; digital file(s)
Collana	Quaderni di Reti medievali rivista ; ; 1
Disciplina	945.05
Soggetti	Feudalism - Italy centro-settentrionale - Sec. 14.-15. -- Congressi - 2005 Italy, Northern History Congresses Italy, Northern Rural conditions Congresses
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Sommario/riassunto	This volume contains the proceedings of the study convention held in Milan on 11 and 12 April 2003. The objective of these study days was to address the question of the powers of lordship which were exercised in the countryside of central-northern Italy between the mid fourteenth century and the end of the fifteenth century. The discussions focused on what instruments and what foundations of legitimacy these same powers had and what was their relationship with the authority of the prince and with the ordinary citizen, on the one hand, and with the community and the homines on the other. These and various other issues thrown up by the study of feudal power are the topics which emerge in the various contributions gathered in this volume, devoted principally to the Lombardy of the Visconti and the Sforza, but also to other areas of Italy.