

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910157788303321
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Titolo	Voices of conscience : royal confessors and political counsel in seventeenth-century Spain and France // Nicole Reinhardt [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford : , : Oxford University Press, , 2016
ISBN	0-19-177285-2
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : illustrations (black and white)
Disciplina	264.0208620094409032
Soggetti	Confessors - Spain - History - 17th century - lemac Confessors - France - History - 17th century - lemac Spain Kings and rulers History 17th century France Kings and rulers History 17th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	This edition previously issued in print: 2016.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	This work examines the role of royal confessors as political counsellors in seventeenth-century Spain and France, and how, against the backdrop of the momentous intellectual, theological, and political shifts that marked this period, questions of conscience became a major argument in the hegemonic struggle between the two competing Catholic powers.