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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : why is it enlightenment? -- Agents and powers : litigants and writers in the courts -- Derecho and law : legal enlightenment in philosophy and policy -- Numbers and values : counting cases in the Spanish empire -- Pleitos and lawsuits : conjugal conflicts in civil courts -- Then and now : native status and custom -- Being and becoming : freedom and slave lawsuits -- Conclusion : why not enlightenment? -- Appendix I. Archival methods -- Appendix II. Analysis of civil litigation over time.
Sommario/riassunto	The principal protagonists of this history of the Enlightenment are non-literate, poor, and enslaved colonial litigants who began to sue their superiors in the royal courts of the Spanish empire. With comparative data on civil litigation and close readings of the lawsuits, 'The Enlightenment on Trial' explores how ordinary Spanish Americans actively produced modern concepts of law.