

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910159458303321
Titolo	Eurasia at the dawn of history : urbanization and social change // [edited by] Manuel Fernandez-Gotz, Dirk Krausse [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2016
ISBN	1-316-94413-1 1-316-94445-X 1-316-60137-4 1-316-55032-X 1-316-94477-8 1-316-94509-X 1-316-94605-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 420 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	930.1
Soggetti	Prehistoric peoples - Eurasia - Social life and customs Prehistoric peoples - Eurasia - Social conditions Social archaeology - Eurasia Cities and towns, Ancient - Eurasia Urbanization - Eurasia - History - To 1500 Social change - Eurasia - History - To 1500 Group identity - Eurasia - History - To 1500 Material culture - Eurasia - History - To 1500 Eurasia Antiquities
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 14 Apr 2017).
Sommario/riassunto	Our current world is characterized by life in cities, the existence of social inequalities, and increasing individualization. When and how did these phenomena arise? What was the social and economic background for the development of hierarchies and the first cities? The authors of this volume analyze the processes of centralization, cultural interaction, and social differentiation that led to the development of the

first urban centres and early state formations of ancient Eurasia, from the Atlantic coasts to China. The chronological framework spans a period from the Neolithic to the Late Iron Age, with a special focus on the early first millennium BC. By adopting an interdisciplinary approach structured around the concepts of identity and materiality, this book addresses the appearance of a range of key phenomena that continue to shape our world.

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