

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454576903321
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Titolo	The Festive State [[electronic resource]] : Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism As Cultural Performance
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2000
ISBN	0-520-92486-X 1-59734-615-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (254 p.)
Disciplina	306/.0987 394.26
Soggetti	Festivals Festivals - Venezuela Folklore Popular culture Popular culture - Venezuela Venezuela-- Social conditions-- 1958- Popular culture - Performance - Venezuela Folklore - Venezuela Sociology & Social History Social Conditions Social Sciences Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminaries; Contents; Acknowledgments; Chapter 1 Variations on a Venezuelan Quartet; Chapter 2. The Selling of San Juan; Chapter 3 Indianness and the Construction of Ethnicity in the Day of the Monkey; Chapter 4. ``Full Speed Ahead with Venezuela'; Chapter 5. From Village Square to Opera House; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	If, as David Guss argues, culture is a contested terrain with constantly changing contours, then festivals are its battlegrounds, where people come to fight and dispute in large acts of public display. Festive behavior, long seen by anthropologists and folklorists as the ""uniform

expression of a collective consciousness, is contentious and often subversive,"" and The Festive State is an eye-opening guide to its workings.
