

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910461187503321
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Titolo	The world, the flesh, and the devil [[electronic resource]] : a history of colonial St. Louis // Patricia Cleary
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Columbia, Mo., : University of Missouri Press, 2011
ISBN	0-8262-7242-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (376 p.)
Soggetti	Electronic books. Saint Louis (Mo.) History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	From France to the frontier -- Settling "Paincourt" : Indians, the fur trade, and farms -- "A strange mixture" : rulers, misrule, and unruly inhabitants in the 1760's -- Power dynamics and the Indian presence in St. Louis -- Sex, race, and empire : the peopling of St. Louis -- "The world, the flesh, and the devil" : conflicts over religion, alcohol, and authority -- A village in crisis : conflict and violence on the brink of war -- "L'annee du coup" : the "last day of St. Louis" and the Revolutionary War -- The struggles of the 1780's -- St. Louis in the 1790's : the enemies within and without -- "The devil take all" or "a happy change" ? : the end of European rule and the American takeover.
Sommario/riassunto	As Anglo-American colonists along the Atlantic seaboard began to protest British rule in the 1760's, a new settlement was emerging many miles west. St. Louis, founded simply as a French trading post, was expanding into a diverse global village. Few communities in eighteenth-century North America had such a varied population: indigenous Americans, French traders and farmers, African and Indian slaves, British officials, and immigrant explorers interacted there under the weak guidance of the Spanish governors. As the city's significance as a hub of commerce grew, its populace became increasingly unpredictable, feuding over matters large and small and succumbing too often to the temptations of "the world, the flesh, and the devil." But British leaders and American Revolutionaries still sought to acquire the area, linking St. Louis to the era's international political and economic

developments and placing this young community at the crossroads of empire. With its colonial period too often glossed over in histories of both early America and the city itself, St. Louis merits a new treatment. The first modern book devoted exclusively to the history of colonial St. Louis, *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil* illuminates how its people loved, fought, worshipped, and traded. Covering the years from the settlement's 1764 founding to its 1804 absorption into the young United States, this study reflects on the experiences of the village's many inhabitants. *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil* recounts important, neglected episodes in the early history of St. Louis in a narrative drawn from original documentary records. Chapters detail the official censure of the illicit union at the heart of St. Louis's founding family, the 1780 battle that nearly destroyed the village, Spanish efforts to manage commercial relations between Indian peoples and French traders, and the ways colonial St. Louisans tested authority and thwarted traditional norms. Patricia Cleary argues that St. Louis residents possessed a remarkable willingness to adapt and innovate, which enabled them to survive the many challenges they faced. The interior regions of the U.S. have been largely relegated to the margins of colonial American history, even though their early times were just as dynamic and significant as those that occurred back east. *The World, the Flesh, and the Devil* is an inclusive, wide-ranging, and overdue account of the Gateway city's earliest years, and this engaging book contributes to a comprehensive national history by revealing the untold stories of Upper Louisiana's capital.
