

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910461483503321
Autore	Spieler Miranda Frances <1971->
Titolo	Empire and underworld [[electronic resource]] : captivity in French Guiana / / Miranda Frances Spieler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, MA, : Harvard University Press, 2012
ISBN	0-674-06287-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (295 p.)
Collana	Harvard Historical Studies ; ; 174
Disciplina	988.2
Soggetti	Captivity - French Guiana - History Power (Social sciences) - French Guiana - History Political violence - French Guiana - History Minorities - French Guiana - History Marginality, Social - French Guiana - History Electronic books. French Guiana Politics and government To 1814 French Guiana Politics and government 1814-1947 French Guiana Social conditions French Guiana Colonial influence
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	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. Leaving the Republic -- Chapter 2. Strange Dominion -- Chapter 3. Free Soil -- Chapter 4. Missing Persons -- Chapter 5. Idea for a Continent -- Chapter 6. Local Arrangements -- Chapter 7. The Enormous Room -- Chapter 8. Metastasis -- Conclusion -- Appendix -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the century after the French Revolution, the South American outpost of Guiana became a depository for exiles-outcasts of the new French citizenry-and an experimental space for the exercise of new kinds of power and violence against marginal groups. Miranda Spieler chronicles the encounter between colonial officials, planters, and others, ranging from deported political enemies to convicts, ex-convicts, vagabonds, freed slaves, non-European immigrants, and Maroons (descendants of

fugitive slaves in the forest). She finds that at a time when France was advocating the revolutionary principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity, Guiana's exiles were stripped of their legal identities and unmade by law, becoming nonpersons living in limbo. The French Revolution invented the notion of the citizen, but as Spieler shows, it also invented the noncitizen—the person whose rights were nonexistent. *Empire and Underworld* discovers in Guiana's wilderness a haunting prehistory of current moral dilemmas surrounding detainees of indeterminate legal status. Pairing the history of France with that of its underworld and challenging some of the century's most influential theorists from Hannah Arendt to Michel Foucault, Spieler demonstrates how rights of the modern world can mutate into an apparatus of human deprivation.
