

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910461709003321
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Titolo	Edge of empire : Atlantic networks and revolution in Bourbon Rio de la Plata // Fabricio Prado
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oakland, California : , : University of California Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-520-96073-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (260 p.)
Disciplina	382.09895
Soggetti	HISTORY / Latin America / South America Electronic books. Rio de la Plata Region (Argentina and Uruguay) Economic conditions 18th century Rio de la Plata Region (Argentina and Uruguay) History 18th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations and Tables -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. A Portuguese Town in Río de la Plata -- 2. Departing without Leaving: Luso-Brazilians under the Viceroyalty -- 3. Transimperial Cooperation: Commerce and War in the South Atlantic -- 4. The Making of Montevideo: Contraband, Reforms, and Authority -- 5. Changing Toponymy and the Emergence of the Banda Oriental -- 6. Traversing Empires: The Atlantic Life of Don Manuel Cipriano de Melo -- 7. Postponing the Revolution -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Archive Abbreviations -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the first decades of the 1800's, after almost three centuries of Iberian rule, former Spanish territories fragmented into more than a dozen new polities. Edge of Empire analyzes the emergence of Montevideo as a hot spot of Atlantic trade and regional center of power, often opposing Buenos Aires. By focusing on commercial and social networks in the Rio de la Plata region, the book examines how Montevideo merchant elites used transimperial connections to expand their influence and how their trade offered crucial support to Montevideo's autonomist projects. These transimperial networks

offered different political, social, and economic options to local societies and shaped the politics that emerged in the region, including the formation of Uruguay. Connecting South America to the broader Atlantic World, this book provides an excellent case study for examining the significance of cross-border interactions in shaping independence processes and political identities.
