

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910461723803321
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Titolo	Pacific worlds : a history of seas, peoples, and cultures / / Matt K. Matsuda [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012
ISBN	1-107-22614-7 1-139-20949-3 1-280-56871-2 9786613598318 1-139-22233-3 1-139-03431-6 1-139-21752-6 1-139-21444-6 1-139-22404-2 1-139-22061-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 436 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	995
Soggetti	Pacific Area Civilization Pacific Area History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Encircling the ocean -- Civilization without a center -- Trading rings and tidal empires -- Straits, sultans and treasure fleets -- Conquered colonies and Iberian ambitions -- Island encounters and the Spanish lake -- Sea changes and spice islands -- Samurai, priests, and potentates -- Pirates and raiders of the eastern seas -- Asia, America, and the age of the galleons -- Navigators of Polynesia and paradise -- Gods and sky piercers -- Extremities of the Great Southern Continent -- The world that Canton made -- Flags, treaties, and gunboats -- Migrations, plantations, and the people trade -- Imperial destinies on foreign shores -- Traditions of engagement and ethnography -- War stories from the Pacific theater -- Prophets and rebels of decolonization -- Critical mass for the earth and ocean --

Specters of memory, agents of development -- Repairing legacies, claiming histories -- Afterword: World heritage.

Sommario/riassunto

Asia, the Pacific Islands and the coasts of the Americas have long been studied separately. This essential single-volume history of the Pacific traces the global interactions and remarkable peoples that have connected these regions with each other and with Europe and the Indian Ocean, for millennia. From ancient canoe navigators, monumental civilisations, pirates and seaborne empires, to the rise of nuclear testing and global warming, Matt Matsuda ranges across the frontiers of colonial history, anthropology and Pacific Rim economics and politics, piecing together a history of the region. The book identifies and draws together the defining threads and extraordinary personal narratives which have contributed to this history, showing how localised contacts and contests have often blossomed into global struggles over colonialism, tourism and the rise of Asian economies. Drawing on Asian, Oceanian, European, American, ancient and modern narratives, the author assembles a fascinating Pacific region from a truly global perspective.