

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463717203321
Autore	Zabin Serena R
Titolo	Dangerous economies [[electronic resource]] : status and commerce in imperial New York / / Serena R. Zabin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2009
ISBN	1-283-89721-0 0-8122-0611-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (214 p.)
Collana	Early American Studies Early American studies
Disciplina	381.09747/1
Soggetti	HISTORY / United States / Colonial Period (1600-1775) Electronic books. New York (N.Y.) Economic conditions New York (N.Y.) Economic conditions 18th century New York (N.Y.) Commerce
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 (p. [193]-195) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Imperial New York City -- Where credit is due -- Webs of dependence -- The informal economy -- Masters of distinction -- Black cargo or crew -- Status, commerce, and conspiracy.
Sommario/riassunto	Before the American Revolution, the people who lived in British North America were not just colonists; they were also imperial subjects. To think of eighteenth-century New Yorkers as Britons rather than incipient Americans allows us fresh investigations into their world. How was the British Empire experienced by those who lived at its margins? How did the mundane affairs of ordinary New Yorkers affect the culture at the center of an enormous commercial empire? Dangerous Economies is a history of New York culture and commerce in the first two thirds of the eighteenth century, when Britain was just beginning to catch up with its imperial rivals, France and Spain. In that sparsely populated city on the fringe of an empire, enslaved Africans rubbed elbows with white indentured servants while the elite strove to maintain ties with European genteel culture. The transience of the city's people, goods, and fortunes created a notably fluid society in which establishing one's

own status or verifying another's was a challenge. New York's shifting imperial identity created new avenues for success but also made success harder to define and demonstrate socially. Such a mobile urban milieu was the ideal breeding ground for crime and conspiracy, which became all too evident in 1741, when thirty slaves were executed and more than seventy other people were deported after being found guilty-on dubious evidence-of plotting a revolt. This sort of violent outburst was the unforeseen but unsurprising result of the seething culture that existed at the margins of the British Empire.
