

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465902403321
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Titolo	Politica : nuevomexicanos and American political incorporation, 1821-1910 / / Phillip B. Gonzales
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lincoln : , : University of Nebraska Press, , [2016] ©2016
ISBN	0-8032-8828-X 0-8032-8830-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1079 p.)
Disciplina	978.9/04
Soggetti	Mexican Americans - New Mexico - Politics and government - 19th century Hispanic Americans - New Mexico - Politics and government - 19th century Electronic books. New Mexico Politics and government 1848-1950 Mexican-American Border Region Historiography
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	Cover; Title Page; Copyright Page; Contents; List of Illustrations; List of Maps; List of Tables; Preface; Acknowledgments; Introduction; Part 1. Initializing Annexation; Chapter 1. Nuevomexicano Politics and Society on the Eve of the American Conquest; Chapter 2. Bloodless and Bloody Conquests, 1846-1847; Chapter 3. Integrative Conquest, 1847-1848; Part 2. Politica in the Ante Bellum; Chapter 4. A Budding Binary, 1848-1852; Chapter 5. Mexican Democratic Party, 1853-1854; Chapter 6. American Democratic Party, 1854- 1859; Part 3. Party Modalities in the Time of Civil War Chapter 7. Low Tide in the Partisan Divide, 1861 Chapter 8. Republican Toehold and the Partisan Normal, 1861-1863; Chapter 9. Bosque Redondo and the Rise of Jose Francisco Chavez, 1863-1865; Part 4. Political Agonism under Reconstruction; Chapter 10. Party Definitions of the Colonizer, 1865-1867; Chapter 11. Politica Judaica e Literaria; Chapter 12. A Contest for the Ages, 1867-1868; Part 5. Arriving;

Sommario/riassunto

"Poltica offers a stunning revisionist understanding of the early political incorporation of Mexican-origin peoples into the U.S. body politic in the nineteenth century. Historical sociologist Phillip B. Gonzales reexamines the fundamental issue in New Mexico's history, namely, the dramatic shift in national identities initiated by Nuevomexicanos when their province became ruled by the United States. Gonzales provides an insightful, rigorous, and controversial interpretation of how Nuevomexicano political competition was woven into the Democratic and Republican two-party system that emerged in the United States between the 1850s and 1912, when New Mexico became a state. Drawing on newly discovered archival and primary sources, he explores how Nuevomexicanos relied on a long tradition of political engagement and a preexisting republican disposition and practice to elaborate a dual-party political system mirroring the contours of U.S. national politics. Poltica is a tour de force of political history in the nineteenth-century U.S.-Mexico borderlands that reinterprets colonization, reconstructs Euro-American and Nuevomexicano relations, and recasts the prevailing historical narrative of territorial expansion and incorporation in North American imperial history. Gonzales provides critical insights into several discrete historical processes, such as U.S. racialization and citizenship, integration and marginalization, accommodation and resistance, internal colonialism, and the long struggle for political inclusion in the borderlands, shedding light on debates taking place today over Latinos and U.S. citizenship"--
