

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910495834803321
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Titolo	Cretan Cities: Formation and Transformation / Florence Gaignerot-Driessen, Jan Driessen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Louvain-la-Neuve, : Presses universitaires de Louvain, 2017
ISBN	2-87558-535-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (182 p.)
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Soggetti	History & Archaeology minoens cités-états Crète politique ville disparue ruines fouilles Antiquité Grèce ruine Antiquity city-state Greece politics ruin excavation Crete

Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	This volume brings together a series of papers reflecting a number of lectures given at the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) in 2010-2012 in the frame of a seminar entitled La naissance des cités crétoises. Eight Cretan sites (Axos, Phaistos, Prinias, Karphi, Dreros, Azoria, Praisos, and Itanos), recently excavated or re-excavated, are considered in their regional and historical context in order to explore the origin and early development of the Greek city-state on the island.