

1. Record Nr.	UNINA991077773903321
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Titolo	Spanish Rome, 1500-1700 // Thomas James Dandele
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2001
ISBN	1-281-72281-2 9786611722814 0-300-13377-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource ([x], 278 p.)) : ill., maps, ports
Disciplina	945/.63207
Soggetti	HISTORY / Europe / Italy Rome (Italy) History 1420-1798 Papal States Politics and government Spain Foreign relations Catholic Church
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: CHAPTER 1 -- FOUNDATIONS 6 -- CHAPTER 2 -- CHARLES V AND THE SPANISH MYTH OF ROME 34 -- CHAPTER 3 -- THE ROMAN WORLD IN THE AGE OF PHILIP II 53 -- CHAPTER 4 -- THE PEOPLE OF SPANISH ROME 009 -- CHAPTER 5 -- THE PIETY OF SPANISH ROME 60 -- CHAPTER 6 -- URBAN VIII AND THE DECLINE OF SPANISH ROME 88 -- CHAPTER 7 -- SPANISH REVIVAL AND RESILIENCE, 1650-1700 202.
Sommario/riassunto	In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Rome was an aged but still vigorous power while Spain was a rising giant on track toward becoming the world's most powerful and first truly global empire. This book tells the fascinating story of the meeting of these two great empires at a critical moment in European history. Thomas Dandele explores for the first time the close relationship between the Spanish Empire and Papal Rome that developed in the dynamic period of the Italian Renaissance and the Spanish Golden Age. The author examines on the one hand the role the Spanish Empire played in shaping Roman politics, economics, culture, society, and religion and on the other the role the papacy played in Spanish imperial politics and the development of Spanish absolutism and monarchical power. Reconstructing the large

Spanish community in Rome during this period, the book reveals the strategies used by the Spanish monarchs and their agents that successfully brought Rome and the papacy under their control. Spanish ambassadors, courtiers, and merchants in Rome carried out a subtle but effective conquest by means of a distinctive "informal" imperialism, which relied largely on patronage politics. As Spain's power grew, Rome enjoyed enormous gains as well, and the close relations they developed became a powerful influence on the political, social, economic, and religious life not only of the Iberian and Italian peninsulas but also of Catholic Reformation Europe as a whole.
