

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778954203321
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Titolo	From the Ptolemies to the Romans : political and economic change in Egypt / / Andrew Monson [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012
ISBN	1-107-22982-0 1-139-20997-3 1-280-48530-2 1-139-22292-9 9786613580283 1-139-21812-3 1-139-02819-7 1-139-21503-5 1-139-22464-6 1-139-22121-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 343 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	HIS002000
Disciplina	932/.02
Soggetti	Human geography - Egypt - History Social structure - Egypt - History Land tenure - Egypt - History Egypt History Greco-Roman period, 332 B.C.-640 A.D Egypt Politics and government 332-30 B.C Egypt Politics and government 30 B.C.-640 A.D Egypt Economic conditions 332 B.C.-640 A.D
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	Part I. Introduction: 1. The political economy of Egypt; 2. Geography and population -- Part II. The Land-Tenure Regime: 3. The regionalism of land tenure; 4. The continuity of agrarian institutions -- Part III. Fiscal and Administrative Reforms: 5. Land taxation and investment; 6. Administration and redistribution -- Part IV. The Politics of Economic Change: 7. The impact of empire; 8. Conclusion.

This book gives a structured account of Egypt's transition from Ptolemaic to Roman rule by identifying key relationships between ecology, land tenure, taxation, administration and politics. It introduces theoretical perspectives from the social sciences and subjects them to empirical scrutiny using data from Greek and Demotic papyri as well as comparative evidence. Although building on recent scholarship, it offers some provocative arguments that challenge prevailing views. For example, patterns of land ownership are linked to population density and are seen as one aspect of continuity between the Ptolemaic and Roman period. Fiscal reform, by contrast, emerges as a significant mechanism of change not only in the agrarian economy but also in the administrative system and the whole social structure. Anyone seeking to understand the impact of Roman rule in the Hellenistic east must consider the well-attested processes in Egypt that this book seeks to explain.
