

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779536403321
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Titolo	Before the Revolution [[electronic resource]] : America's ancient pasts / / Daniel K. Richter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-674-06124-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (560 p.)
Disciplina	973/.01
Soggetti	HISTORY / United States / General United States Civilization United States Civilization Indian influences United States Civilization European influences United States Civilization African influences America History To 1810 United States History Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
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	Prologue : layered pasts -- Progenitors -- Legacies of power from medieval North America -- Legacies of conquest from medieval Europe -- Conquistadores -- Crusades of the Christ-bearers to the Americas -- Crusades of the protestants to new worlds -- Traders -- Native Americans and the power of trade -- Epidemics, war, and the remapping of a continent -- Planters -- Searching for order in new and old England -- Planting patriarchy in New England and Virginia -- Dutch, French, Spanish, and English counterpoints -- Imperialists -- Monarchical power reborn -- Planters besieged -- Revolution, war, and a new transatlantic order -- Atlantians -- Producing and consuming in an Atlantic empire -- People in motion, enslaved and free -- Contending for a continent -- Gloomy and dark days -- Epilogue : present pasts.
Sommario/riassunto	America began, we are often told, with the Founding Fathers, the men who waged a revolution and created a unique place called the United States. We may acknowledge the early Jamestown and Puritan colonists and mourn the dispossession of Native Americans, but we rarely

grapple with the complexity of the nation's pre-revolutionary past. In this pathbreaking revision, Daniel Richter shows that the United States has a much deeper history than is apparent—that far from beginning with a clean slate, it is a nation with multiple pasts that stretch back as far as the Middle Ages, pasts whose legacies continue to shape the present. Exploring a vast range of original sources, *Before the Revolution* spans more than seven centuries and ranges across North America, Europe, and Africa. Richter recovers the lives of a stunning array of peoples—Indians, Spaniards, French, Dutch, Africans, English—as they struggled with one another and with their own people for control of land and resources. Their struggles occurred in a global context and built upon the remains of what came before. Gradually and unpredictably, distinctive patterns of North American culture took shape on a continent where no one yet imagined there would be nations called the United States, Canada, or Mexico. By seeing these trajectories on their own dynamic terms, rather than merely as a prelude to independence, Richter's epic vision reveals the deepest origins of American history.
