

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779918703321
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Titolo	An economic and social history of the Netherlands, 1800-1920 : demographic, economic, and social transition // Michael Wintle [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2000
ISBN	1-107-12082-9 0-521-03739-5 0-511-32745-5 1-280-15478-0 0-511-49697-4 0-511-04635-9 0-511-15233-7 0-511-11877-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 399 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	306/.09492
Soggetti	Demography - Netherlands - History Netherlands Economic conditions Netherlands Social conditions Netherlands Population History Netherlands Statistics, Vital
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 (p. 348-384) and index.
Nota di contenuto	; pt. I. Demography, and the health of the nation. ; 1. Demographic indicators. ; 2. The condition of the people: public health, diet and nutrition -- ; pt. II. Economic transition. ; 3. Economic performance and industrialization: the Dutch debate. ; 4. Factor inputs: labour, capital, materials. ; 5. Economic influences: entrepreneurship, technology and government policy. ; 6. Sectoral analysis. ; 7. Features of demand. ; 8. Economic transition: conclusion -- ; pt. III. Social transition: state, society, individual and nation. ; 9. Authority and representation: the citizen and the state. ; 10. Education and welfare: empowerment and protection. ; 11. Loyal subjects: state formation and nation formation. ;

12. Social groups.

Sommario/riassunto

An Economic and Social History of the Netherlands, 1800-1920 provides a comprehensive account of Dutch history from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, examining population and health, the economy, and socio-political history. The Dutch experience in this period is fascinating and instructive: the country saw extremely rapid population growth, awesome death rates, staggering fertility, some of the fastest economic growth in the world, a uniquely large and efficient service sector, a vast and profitable overseas empire, characteristic 'pillarization', and relative tolerance. Michael Wintle also examines the lives of ordinary people: what they ate, how much they earned, what they thought about public affairs, and how they wooed and wed. This book will be of central importance to Dutch specialists, as well as European historians more generally.