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| 1. Record Nr. | UNISOBE600200016389 |
| Titolo | San Carlo e il suo tempo : atti del Convegno internazionale nel 4. centenario della morte : Milano, 21-26 maggio 1984 |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Roma : Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 1986 |
| Descrizione fisica | 2 v. (XIII, 1238 p. complessive) ; 25 cm |
| Collana | Studi e fonti su San Carlo Borromeo ; 2 |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Italiano |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
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- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 2. Record Nr. | UNINA9910780548203321 |
| Autore | Tharamangalam Joseph |
| Titolo | Agrarian class conflict [[electronic resource]] : the political mobilization of agricultural labourers in Kuttanad, South India / / Joseph Tharamangalam |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Vancouver, : University of British Columbia Press, c1981 |
| ISBN | 1-283-22675-8
9786613226754
0-7748-5784-6 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (138 p.) |
| Collana | Asian studies monographs ; ; 2 |
| Disciplina | 322/.2/095483 |
| Soggetti | Agricultural laborers - India - Kerala - Political activity
Agricultural laborers - Labor unions - India - Kerala
Social classes - India - Kerala |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Includes index. |
| Nota di bibliografia | Bibliography: p. [111]-123. |
| Nota di contenuto | Front Matter -- Contents -- Tables -- Preface and Acknowledgements -- Introduction -- Agriculture in Kuttanad -- Agrarian Relations in Kuttanad -- The Agricultural Labourers -- Organization and Struggle |

Sommario/riassunto

How does rural class structure influence the political mobilization of farm labourers? This case study documents the process in Kuttanad - a rice-producing region of India noted for its history of rural conflict. Tharamangalam deals fully with the historical and present background of agrarian relations in India, the character and conditions of the labour force, the rise of the Communist labour unions, and the reasons for their current dilemmas. He offers valuable insights into the methods used by trade unions and the Communist Party to organize at the grass roots level. The book is enriched by the author's familiarity with the region and the language, his own extensive fieldwork, and his use of important primary sources. It will provide political scientists, economists, anthropologists, and sociologists with valuable, hitherto unpublished material.
