

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910781068403321
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Titolo	Religion, empire, and torture [[electronic resource]] : the case of Achaemenian Persia, with a postscript on Abu Ghraib // Bruce Lincoln
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 2007
ISBN	1-282-53790-3 9786612537905 0-226-48191-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (195 p.)
Disciplina	935/.05
Soggetti	Religion and politics Religion and politics - Iran Iran History To 640
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 (p. 143-167) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Center and periphery -- God's chosen -- Creation -- Microcosms, wonders, paradise -- The dark side of paradise -- Postscript: on Abu Ghraib and some related contemporary matters.
Sommario/riassunto	How does religion stimulate and feed imperial ambitions and violence? Recently this question has acquired new urgency, and in Religion, Empire, and Torture, Bruce Lincoln approaches the problem via a classic but little-studied case: Achaemenian Persia. Lincoln identifies three core components of an imperial theology that have transhistorical and contemporary relevance: dualistic ethics, a theory of divine election, and a sense of salvific mission. Beyond this, he asks, how did the Achaemenians understand their place in the cosmos and their moral status in relation