

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910781131203321
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Titolo	Splendid land, splendid people [[electronic resource] ] : the Chickasaw Indians to removal / / James R. Atkinson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Tuscaloosa, : University of Alabama Press, c2004
ISBN	0-8173-8337-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (382 p.)
Disciplina	976.004/973
Soggetti	Chickasaw Indians - History Chickasaw Indians - Government relations Chickasaw Indians - Wars Tombigbee River Valley (Miss. and Ala.) History Sources
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. [321]-341) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; List of Illustrations; Preface and Acknowledgments; 1. Land of the Bones; 2. Down a Long Road; 3. The Long Road Narrows; 4. The Road Has No Fork; 5. The Road Lengthens; 6. A Better Road Traveled; 7. A Road Unexpected; 8. The Strange Road Ends; 9. A Short but Dangerous Road; 10. The War Road Ends; 11. The Road West Begins; 12. The Road West; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Before the Chickasaws were removed to lands in Oklahoma in the 1800's, the heart of the Chickasaw Nation was located east of the Mississippi River in the upper watershed of the Tombigbee River in what is today northeastern Mississippi. Their lands had been called ""splendid and fertile"" by French governor Bienville at the time they were being coveted by early European settlers. The people were also termed ""splendid"" and described by documents of the 1700's as ""tall, well made, and of an unparalleled courage. . . . The men have regular features, well shaped and neatly dressed; they