

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782340703321
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Titolo	Dharma, disorder, and the political in ancient India [[electronic resource]] : the Apaddharmaparvan of the Mahabharata / / by Adam Bowles
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2007
ISBN	1-281-92652-3 9786611926526 90-474-2260-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (448 p.)
Collana	Brill's Indological library, , 0925-2916 ; ; v. 28
Disciplina	294.5/923046
Soggetti	Kings and rulers - Moral and ethical aspects - India India Kings and rulers Moral and ethical aspects
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. [409]-425) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Matiere Preliminaire / A. Bowles -- Chapter One. Introduction / A. Bowles -- Chapter Two. 'Distress' In The Literature On Dharma And Artha / A. Bowles -- Chapter Three. Dharma / A. Bowles -- Chapter Four. Yudhihira And The Narrative Frame Of The paddharmaparvan / A. Bowles -- Chapter Five. Strategies Of Integration / A. Bowles -- Chapter Six. Laws For A King In Crisis: Texts On paddharma I / A. Bowles -- Chapter Seven. Diversions on a theme: Texts on paddharma II / A. Bowles -- Chapter Eight. Setting things right: Transitional texts of the paddharmaparvan I / A. Bowles -- Chapter Nine. Coda: Transitional texts of the paddharmaparvan II / A. Bowles -- Chapter Ten. Conclusion / A. Bowles -- Bibliography / A. Bowles -- Index / A. Bowles.
Sommario/riassunto	The paddharmaparvan, 'the book on conduct in times of distress', is an important section of the great Sanskrit epic the Mahabhrata which, despite its significance for Mahabhrata studies and for the history of Indian social and political thought, has received little attention in scholarly literature. This book places the paddharmaparvan within its literary and ideological contexts. In so doing it explores the development of a conception of brahmanic kingship morally justifiable

within the terms of a debate largely set by various alternative social movements of the period. This book further explores the implications for our understanding of the Mahabhrata that follow from the paddharmaparvan's presentation as a poetically cohesive unit within itself and within the wider parameters of the Mahabhrata.
