

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782630203321
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Titolo	Good citizens : British missionaries and imperial states, 1870-1918 // James G. Greenlee and Charles M. Johnston
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal ; ; Ithaca : , : McGill-Queen's University Press, , 1999
ISBN	1-282-85537-9 9786612855375 0-7735-6752-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxi, 274 pages)
Collana	McGill-Queen's studies in the history of religion. Series two ; ; 8
Altri autori (Persone)	JohnstonCharles Murray <1926->
Disciplina	266/.02341
Soggetti	Imperialism - History Missionaries - Great Britain - Political activity Missions, British - History Missions, British - Political aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	""Contents""; ""Preface""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Origins of the Missionary Societies""; ""Secretaries of British Missionary Societies""; ""Introduction""; ""1 The Politics of Spiritual Free Trade""; ""2 ""God's Greater Britain"""; ""3 Citizenship in Crisis I: The Boer War""; ""4 Citizenship in Crisis II: The Boxer Rebellion""; ""5 ""Higher Citizenship"""; ""6 Armageddon""; ""Conclusion""; ""Notes""; ""Note on Sources""; ""Index""
Sommario/riassunto	The authors examine the interaction of missionary organizations with local political powers and with their home government, arguing that in trying to decide which course of action to pursue, missionaries became knowledgeable students of imperial politics and the shifting state of international affairs. They show that leadership of British missionary societies was split between those who wanted to be treated without favouritism by the British government and those who had more aggressive expectations. In doing so they explore the pressures that contributed to the formation of imperial policy and perspective during a significant period of the evolution of the British empire.

