

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782732803321
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Titolo	Mercenaries, Pirates, and Sovereigns : State-Building and Extraterritorial Violence in Early Modern Europe // Janice E. Thomson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, NJ : , : Princeton University Press, , [1996] ©1994
ISBN	1-282-75191-3 9786612751912 1-4008-2124-X
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (232 p.)
Collana	Princeton Studies in International History and Politics ; ; 63
Disciplina	355.3/5
Soggetti	Europe -- Politics and government Mercantile system -- Europe -- History Mercenary troops -- Europe -- History Pirates -- Europe -- History Sovereignty Violence -- Europe -- History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Tables -- Introduction -- CHAPTER ONE. The State, Violence, and Sovereignty -- CHAPTER TWO. Nonstate Violence Unleashed -- CHAPTER THREE. Unintended Consequences -- CHAPTER FOUR. Delegitimizing State- Authorized Nonstate Violence -- CHAPTER FIVE. Suppressing Unauthorized Nonstate Violence -- CHAPTER SIX. Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The contemporary organization of global violence is neither timeless nor natural, argues Janice Thomson. It is distinctively modern. In this book she examines how the present arrangement of the world into violence-monopolizing sovereign states evolved over the six preceding centuries.