

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782985403321
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Titolo	Vital enemies [[electronic resource]] : slavery, predation, and the Amerindian political economy of life // Fernando Santos-Granero
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, : University of Texas Press, 2009
ISBN	0-292-79381-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (317 p.)
Disciplina	970.01
Soggetti	Enslaved Indians - America Slavery - America Indian captivities - America Prisoners of war - America Ethnic conflict - America America Ethnic relations Economic aspects America History To 1810
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [240]-270) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Capturing societies -- Captive slaves -- Servant groups -- Tributary populations -- Markers of servitude -- Servile obligations -- Dependent status -- Civilizing the other -- Warring against the other.
Sommario/riassunto	Analyzing slavery and other forms of servitude in six non-state indigenous societies of tropical America at the time of European contact, Vital Enemies offers a fascinating new approach to the study of slavery based on the notion of "political economy of life." Fernando Santos-Granero draws on the earliest available historical sources to provide novel information on Amerindian regimes of servitude, sociologies of submission, and ideologies of capture. Estimating that captive slaves represented up to 20 percent of the total population and up to 40 percent when combined with other forms of servitude, Santos-Granero argues that native forms of servitude fulfill the modern understandings of slavery, though Amerindian contexts provide crucial distinctions with slavery as it developed in the American South. The Amerindian understanding of life forces as being finite, scarce, unequally distributed, and in constant circulation yields a concept of all

living beings as competing for vital energy. The capture of human beings is an extreme manifestation of this understanding, but it marks an important element in the ways Amerindian "captive slavery" was misconstrued by European conquistadors. Illuminating a cultural facet that has been widely overlooked or miscast for centuries, *Vital Enemies* makes possible new dialogues regarding hierarchies in the field of native studies, as well as a provocative re-framing of pre- and post-contact America.
