Record Nr. Autore Titolo Pubbl/distr/stampa	UNINA9910783112503321 Manning Joseph Gilbert Land and power in Ptolemaic Egypt : the structure of land tenure / / J.G. Manning [[electronic resource]] Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2003
ISBN	1-107-13572-9 1-280-43058-3 0-511-17929-4 1-139-14878-8 0-511-06153-6 0-511-05520-X 0-511-32610-6 0-511-48284-1 0-511-06999-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xx, 335 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	333.3/0932/09014
Soggetti	Land tenure - Egypt - History Egyptian language Real property - Egypt - History Egypt Economic conditions 332 B.C640 A.D Sources
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 279-324) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	pt. I. Issues and historical background. Issues and methodologies ; The Ptolemaic state and its antecedents pt. II. Regional case studies of land tenure. The land tenure regime in Upper Egypt ; The land tenure regime in the Fayyum depression pt. III. Interpretation. The Ptolemaic state, the land tenure regime, and economic power ; The private transmission of land ; Conclusions [Appendices.] Appendix 1. Translation of the Edfu donation text Appendix 2. Ptolemaic demotic land transfer in Upper Egypt Appendix 3. Translation of P. Amh. gr. 49.
Sommario/riassunto	This history of land tenure under the Ptolemies explores the relationship between the new Ptolemaic state and the ancient traditions

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of landholding and tenure. Departing from the traditional emphasis on the Fayyum, it offers a coherent framework for understanding the structure of the Ptolemaic state, and thus of the economy as a whole. Drawing on both Greek and demotic papyri, as well as hieroglyphic inscriptions and theories taken from the social sciences, Professor Manning argues that the traditional central state 'despotic' model of the Egyptian economy is insufficient. The result is a subtler picture of the complex relationship between the demands of the new state and the ancient, locally organized social structure of Egypt. By revealing the dynamics between central and local power in Egypt, the book shows that Ptolemaic economic power ultimately shaped Roman Egyptian social and economic institutions.