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Titolo	Court and politics in papal Rome, 1492-1700 // edited by Gianvittorio Signorotto and Maria Antonietta Visceglia [[electronic resource]]
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Nota di contenuto	A turning-point in the history of the factional system in the Sacred College: the power of pope and cardinals in the age of Alexander VI / Marco Pellegrini -- Court and city in the ceremony of the possesso in the sixteenth century / Irene Fosi -- 'Rome, workshop of all the practices of the world': from the letters of Cardinal Ferdinando de' Medici to Cosimo I and Francesco I / Elena Fasano Guarini -- The 'world's theatre': the court of Rome and politics in the first half of the seventeenth century / Mario Rosa -- Factions in the Sacred College in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries / Maria Antonietta Visceglia -- The Secretariat of State as the pope's special ministry / Antonio Menniti Ippolito -- The cardinal-protectors of the crowns in the Roman curia during the first half of the seventeenth century: the case of France / Olivier Poncet -- The squadrone volante: 'independent' cardinals and European politics in the second half of the seventeenth century / Gianvittorio Signorotto -- Roman avvisi: information and politics in the

seventeenth century / Mario Infelise -- Hegemony over the social scene and zealous popes (1676-1700) / Renata Ago.

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Sommario/riassunto

This 2002 book attempts to overcome the traditional historiographical approach to the role of the early modern papacy by focusing on the actual mechanisms of power in the papal court. The period covered extends from the Renaissance to the aftermath of the peace of Westphalia in 1648 - after which the papacy was reduced to a mainly spiritual role. Based on research in Italian and other European archives, the book concentrates on the factions at the Roman court and in the college of cardinals. The sacred college came under great international pressure during the election of a new pope, and consequently such figures as foreign ambassadors and foreign cardinals are examined, as well as political liaisons and social contacts at court. Finally, the book includes an analysis of the ambiguous nature of Roman ceremonial, which was both religious and secular: a reflection of the power struggle both in Rome and in Europe.

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