

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783682903321
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Titolo	Aristocratic redoubt : the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Office on the eve of the First World War / / William D. Godsey, Jr
Pubbl/distr/stampa	West Lafayette, Ind., : Purdue University Press, c1999
ISBN	1-61249-068-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 304 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Central European studies
Disciplina	327.436
Soggetti	Aristocracy (Social class) - Austria Diplomatic and consular service, Austrian Diplomats - Austria Elite (Social sciences) - Austria Austria Foreign relations 1867-1918
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. 279-292) and index.
Sommario/riassunto	This is a study of nobility who served in the foreign office prior to World War I. It deals with such facets of aristocratic life as education, wealth, religion and ethnicity. It contends that although pre-war aristocracy has been stereotyped, Austro-Hungarian nobility had great staying power.