

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784607803321
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Titolo	Time, history, and belief in Aztec and Colonial Mexico [[electronic resource] /] / Ross Hassig
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, TX, : University of Texas Press, 2001
ISBN	0-292-79795-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (239 p.)
Disciplina	529/.32978452
Soggetti	Aztec calendar Aztecs - History Aztec cosmology Manuscripts, Nahuatl Time - Social aspects - Mexico Mexico History Spanish colony, 1540-1810
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. 193-209) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- 1 Time and the Interpretation of Other Cultures -- 2 Outside the Focus -- 3 Reinterpreting Aztec Perspectives -- 4 Why the Aztecs Manipulated Time -- 5 The Ripples of Time -- 6 The Colonial Transition -- 7 Time and Analysis -- Appendix: Pronunciation Guide -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Based on their enormously complex calendars that recorded cycles of many kinds, the Aztecs and other ancient Mesoamerican civilizations are generally believed to have had a cyclical, rather than linear, conception of time and history. This boldly revisionist book challenges that understanding. Ross Hassig offers convincing evidence that for the Aztecs time was predominantly linear, that it was manipulated by the state as a means of controlling a dispersed tribute empire, and that the Conquest cut off state control and severed the unity of the calendar, leaving only the lesser cycles. From these, he asserts, we have inadequately reconstructed the pre-Columbian calendar and so misunderstood the Aztec conception of time and history. Hassig first presents the traditional explanation of the Aztec calendrical system and

its ideological functions and then marshals contrary evidence to argue that the Aztec elite deliberately used calendars and timekeeping to achieve practical political ends. He further traces how the Conquest played out in the temporal realm as Spanish conceptions of time partially displaced the Aztec ones. His findings promise to revolutionize our understanding of how the Aztecs and other Mesoamerican societies conceived of time and history.
