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Autore	Anderson Aaron D
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Old ways and new realities -- Merchant communities -- Crop liens, freedmen, and planters -- A new kind of planter -- Merchant life and social capital -- A dangerous business.
Sommario/riassunto	Builders of a New South describes how, between 1865 and 1914, ten Natchez mercantile families emerged as leading purveyors in the wholesale plantation supply and cotton handling business, and soon became a dominant force in the social and economic Reconstruction of the Natchez District. They were able to take advantage of postwar conditions in Natchez to gain mercantile prominence by supplying planters and black sharecroppers in the plantation supply and cotton buying business. They parlayed this initial success into cotton plantation ownership and became important local businessmen