

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787139903321
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Titolo	Lenape country : Delaware Valley society before William Penn // Jean R. Soderlund
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : , : University of Pennsylvania Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-8122-2363-2 0-8122-9019-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (264 p.)
Collana	Early American Studies
Disciplina	974.9
Soggetti	Delaware Indians - Delaware River Valley (N.Y.-Del. and N.J.) - History - 17th century Delaware Indians - Delaware River Valley (N.Y.-Del. and N.J.) - Government relations - History - 17th century Indians of North America - History - Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775 Delaware River Valley (N.Y.-Del. and N.J.) History 17th century Delaware River Valley (N.Y.-Del. and N.J.) Ethnic relations History 17th century Delaware River Valley (N.Y.-Del. and N.J.) Social conditions 17th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Note on the Text -- Introduction -- 1. A Free People, Subject to No One -- 2. Controlling the Land through Massacre and War, 1626–38 -- 3. Managing a Tenuous Peace, 1638–54 -- 4. Allies against the Dutch, 1654–64 -- 5. Allies against the English, 1664–73 -- 6. Protecting Sovereignty amid Wars, 1673–80 -- 7. Negotiating Penn’s Colony, 1681–1715 -- 8. Strategies of Survival and Revenge -- Conclusion -- Note on Methodology -- Notes -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	In 1631, when the Dutch tried to develop plantation agriculture in the Delaware Valley, the Lenape Indians destroyed the colony of Swanendael and killed its residents. The Natives and Dutch quickly negotiated peace, avoiding an extended war through diplomacy and trade. The Lenapes preserved their political sovereignty for the next

fifty years as Dutch, Swedish, Finnish, and English colonists settled the Delaware Valley. The European outposts did not approach the size and strength of those in Virginia, New England, and New Netherland. Even after thousands of Quakers arrived in West New Jersey and Pennsylvania in the late 1670's and '80's, the region successfully avoided war for another seventy-five years. *Lenape Country* is a sweeping narrative history of the multiethnic society of the Delaware Valley in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. After Swanendael, the Natives, Swedes, and Finns avoided war by focusing on trade and forging strategic alliances in such events as the Dutch conquest, the Mercurius affair, the Long Swede conspiracy, and English attempts to seize land. Drawing on a wide range of sources, author Jean R. Soderlund demonstrates that the hallmarks of Delaware Valley society—commitment to personal freedom, religious liberty, peaceful resolution of conflict, and opposition to hierarchical government—began in the Delaware Valley not with Quaker ideals or the leadership of William Penn but with the Lenape Indians, whose culture played a key role in shaping Delaware Valley society. The first comprehensive account of the Lenape Indians and their encounters with European settlers before Pennsylvania's founding, *Lenape Country* places Native culture at the center of this part of North America.
