

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787521203321
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Titolo	Day of reckoning : power and accountability in medieval France // Robert F. Berkhofer III
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2004
ISBN	0-8122-0126-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (277 pages)
Collana	The Middle Ages series
Disciplina	944/.02
Soggetti	Benedictine monasteries - France - History France History Medieval period, 987-1515 Sources France Church history 987-1515 Sources France Politics and government 987-1328 Sources France Social conditions 987-1515 Sources
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. [245]-259) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. A Fragmentary Past? Monastic History, Memory, and Patrimony -- 2. Written Comprehension of Land and Signs of an Administrative Mentality -- 3. Ministering and Administering: Abbots as Catalysts of Change -- 4. Discipline and Service Inside and Outside the Cloister -- Conclusion: Accountability, Writing, and Rule by 1200 -- Appendix A: The Cartularies of Saint-Bertin -- Appendix B: The Cartulary of Three Crosses -- Appendix D: Abbatial and Monastic Acts: Saint-Vaast, Saint-Bertin, and Saint-Denis -- Abbreviations -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	Day of Reckoning: Power and Accountability in Medieval France applies recent approaches to literacy, legal studies, memory, ritual, and the manorial economy to reexamine the transformation of medieval power. Highlighting the relationship of archives and power, it draws on the rich documentary sources of five of the largest Benedictine monasteries in northern France and Flanders, with comparisons to others, over a period of nearly four centuries. The book opens up new perspectives on important problems of power, in particular the idea and practice of accountability. In a violent society, medieval lords tried to delegate

power rather than share it-to get their men to prosecute justice or raise money legitimately, rather than through extortion and pillage. Robert F. Berkhofer III explains how subordinates were held accountable by abbots administering the extensive holdings of Saint-Bertin, Saint-Denis, Saint-Germain-des-Prés, Saint-Père-de-Chartres, and Saint-Vaast-d'Arras. As the abbots began to discipline their agents and monitor their conduct, the "day of reckoning" took on new meaning, as customary meeting days were used to hold agents accountable. By 1200, written and unwritten techniques of rule developed in the monasteries had moved into the secular world; in these practices lay the origins of administration, bureaucratic power, and governance, all hallmarks of the modern state.
