Record Nr. UNINA9910788314803321 Autore Stanfield Michael Edward <1957-> Titolo Of beasts and beauty [[electronic resource]]: gender, race, and identity in Colombia / / by Michael Edward Stanfield Austin,: University of Texas Press, 2013 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-292-74559-1 Edizione [1st ed.] 1 online resource (293 p.) Descrizione fisica Disciplina 305.409861 Soggetti Feminine beauty (Aesthetics) - Colombia - History Beauty contests - Colombia - History Women - Colombia - History Nationalism - Colombia - History Colombia History 1810-Colombia Social conditions Colombia Politics and government Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. "La mujer reina pero no gobierna," 1845-1885 -- Bicycle race, 1885-Nota di contenuto 1914 -- Apparent modernity, 1914-1929 -- Liberal beauty, 1930-1948 -- Exclusive beasts, 1948-1958 -- From Miss Universe to the anti-reina, 1958-1968 -- Static government, social evolution, 1968-1979 -- Pulchritude, the palacio, and power, 1979-1985. Sommario/riassunto All societies around the world and through time value beauty highly. Tracing the evolutions of the Colombian standards of beauty since 1845, Michael Edward Stanfield explores their significance to and symbiotic relationship with violence and inequality in the country. Arguing that beauty holds not only social power but also economic and political power, he positions it as a pacific and inclusive influence in a country "ripped apart by violence, private armies, seizures of land, and abuse of governmental authority, one hoping that female beauty could save it from the ravages of the male beast." One specific means of

> obscuring those harsh realities is the beauty pageant, of which Colombia has over 300 per year. Stanfield investigates the ways in which these pageants reveal the effects of European modernity and

notions of ethnicity on Colombian women, and how beauty for Colombians has become an external representation of order and morality that can counter the pathological effects of violence, inequality, and exclusion in their country.