

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910788819403321
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Titolo	Religion and Ideology in Assyria / / Beate Pongratz-Leisten
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin ; ; Boston : , : De Gruyter, , [2015] ©2015
ISBN	1-61451-954-4 1-61451-426-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (380 p.)
Collana	Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records (SANER) ; ; 6
Classificazione	BE 6402
Disciplina	950
Soggetti	Ideology - Assyria Assyria Religion
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgments -- Contents -- Abbreviations -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The Dynamics of Cultural Regions and Traditions in Mesopotamia and the Rise of Assyrian Cultural Discourse -- 3. The Origins of Assyrian Cultural Tradition -- 4. Empire as Cosmos, Cosmos as Empire -- 5. Narratives of Power and the Assyrian Notion of Kingship -- 6. Administrator, Hunter, Warrior: The Mythical Foundations of the King's Role as Ninurta -- 7. The King's Share in Divine Knowledge -- 8. Between the Fictive and the Imaginary -- 9. The Individual Ruler as a Model for Kingship: Rethinking Ancient Historiography -- 10. The Reinvention of Tradition: The Assyrian State Rituals -- 11. The Voice of the Scholar -- Appendix -- Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	Addressing the relationship between religion and ideology, and drawing on a range of literary, ritual, and visual sources, this book reconstructs the cultural discourse of Assyria from the third through the first millennium BCE. Ideology is delineated here as a subdiscourse of religion rather than as an independent category, anchoring it firmly within the religious world view. Tracing Assur's cultural interaction with the south on the one hand, and with the Syro-Anatolian horizon on the other, this volume articulates a "northern" cultural discourse that, even while interacting with southern Mesopotamian tradition, managed to maintain its own identity. It also follows the development of tropes and

iconic images from the first city state of Uruk and their movement
between myth, image, and royal inscription, historiography and myth,
and myth and ritual, suggesting that, with the help of scholars, key
royal figures were responsible for introducing new directions for the
ideological discourse and for promoting new forms of historiography.
