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Titolo	Between Scylla and Charybdis [[electronic resource]] : the Jews in Sicily // by Shlomo Simonsohn
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2011
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (794 p.)
Collana	Brill's series in Jewish studies, , 0926-2261 ; ; v. 43
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary material -- From Rome to Spain -- The First Millennium -- Jewish Settlements (1) -- From Roman Citizens to Servants of the Royal Treasury -- The Jewish Community (1) -- Scholars and Poets -- Merchants, Artisans and Others -- Between Scylla and Charybdis -- The King's Jews -- Taxation and Imposts -- Jewish Settlements (2) -- Migrations to and from Sicily -- Demography -- The Jews and the Law -- Slay them not Lest my People Forget -- The Jewish Community (2) -- Education and Culture -- The Economy -- The Individual and the Family -- The Expulsion -- Conclusion -- Table 1: Rulers 1282y1492 -- Bibliography -- Index of Persons -- Geographical Index -- Subject Index -- PLATES SECTION.
Sommario/riassunto	The history of the Jews in Sicily covers a period of over a thousand years, from Antiquity to the Expulsion, based on some 40,000 archival records, most of them hitherto unpublished. It illustrates the political, legal, economic, social and religious vicissitudes of the Jewish minority and its relations with the surrounding majority of Romans, Moslems and Christians. While the antecedents of the Jewish presence on the island are shrouded in mystery, more and more historical records surface with the passage of time. Those become abundant toward the later Middle Ages. At that time the Jews in Sicily were citizens and

suffered from relatively few disabilities. This was true in particular in the economic sphere. No discriminatory legislation forced them into moneylending and trade in old clothes. They engaged in agriculture and industry, trade and commerce, including international trade and shipping, and in most professions, which in turn enhanced their social status. There was as an unusually large number of craftsmen and physicians among them. The majority, however, were labourers, on the land and in town. In the fifteenth century the Jewish population reached 25,000 or thereabouts, over half of contemporary Italian Jewry. All this came to a sudden end with the expulsion order issued by the Catholic Monarchs in 1492. Some 80% of the Jews went into exile, while the remainder converted to Catholicism, only to be caught in the net of the Spanish inquisition. \This final volume of Simonsohn's series provides readers with an excellent opportunity to obtain the gist of the scholarship in the previous volumes. Replete with tables detailing commodity prices, wages and salaries, marriage contracts, and demographics this work is an extremely informative and very readable description of the interaction between Jews and non-Jews in a not-so-closed society in the Middle Ages.\ Randall C. Belinfante, Librarian/Archivist, American Sephardi Federation, New York (AJL Reviews, Nov/Dec 2011) This book is also available in paperback.
