

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789724403321
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Titolo	Portuguese enterprise in the East [[electronic resource]] : survival in the years, 1707-1757 // by Teddy Sim
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2011
ISBN	1-283-27063-3 9786613270634 90-04-20985-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (238 p.)
Collana	European expansion and indigenous response, , 1873-8974 ; ; v. 10
Disciplina	325/.346909509033
Soggetti	Portuguese - Asia - History - 18th century Portugal Colonies Asia History 18th century Portugal Colonies Asia Administration History 18th century Portugal Politics and government 1706-1750
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.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / T. Sim -- Chapter One. The Portuguese Empire In Asia / T. Sim -- Chapter Two. The Empire On The Eve Of The Eighteenth Century / T. Sim -- Chapter Three. Leadership From Lisbon To Goa / T. Sim -- Chapter Four. Diplomacy And War / T. Sim -- Chapter Five. Commercial Challenges Of The Eastern Empire / T. Sim -- Chapter Six. Imperial Power Through Culture And Religion / T. Sim -- Chapter Seven. Beginning Of A Reversal? 1741-57 / T. Sim -- Chapter Eight. Conclusions / T. Sim -- Appendices / T. Sim -- Bibliography / T. Sim -- Index / T. Sim.
Sommario/riassunto	Since 2000, there have been fewer studies released about the 'formal aspects' of the operation of colonial powers, such as Portugal, in the East during the Early Modern period. Prior, the fall of Communism, in the last decade of the twentieth century, gave a boost to liberal ideology, while research into topics related to autocracy or state apparatus have become unfashionable. The Portuguese role in the East is usually overlooked, being less high-profile than that of the Dutch or British. Drawing on unpublished materials from the Overseas Historical Archive , and other libraries in Portugal, this book considers Portuguese

leadership and organization at home, where it pertained to the governance of the eastern colonies; as well as the formal and 'soft' instruments of state applied on the ground in these colonies in first half of the eighteenth century.
