

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791134003321
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Titolo	Of summits and sacrifice [[electronic resource] ] : an ethnohistoric study of Inka religious practices // Thomas Besom
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, : University of Texas Press, 2009
ISBN	0-292-79762-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (245 p.)
Disciplina	299.8/83230342
Soggetti	Incas - Rites and ceremonies Incas - Antiquities Human sacrifice - Peru Mountains - Religious aspects Peru Antiquities
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Ethnohistory and the Inkas -- Qhapaq Hucha sacrifice -- Other types of sacrifice -- Mountain worship -- Mountain offerings -- Reasons for worshipping mountains -- Material correlates of mountain worship -- Conclusions.
Sommario/riassunto	In perhaps as few as one hundred years, the Inka Empire became the largest state ever formed by a native people anywhere in the Americas, dominating the western coast of South America by the early sixteenth century. Because the Inkas had no system of writing, it was left to Spanish and semi-indigenous authors to record the details of the religious rituals that the Inkas believed were vital for consolidating their conquests. Synthesizing these arresting accounts that span three centuries, Thomas Besom presents a wealth of descriptive data on the Inka practices of human sacrifice and mountain worship, supplemented by archaeological evidence. Of Summits and Sacrifice offers insight into the symbolic connections between landscape and life that underlay Inka religious beliefs. In vivid prose, Besom links significant details, ranging from the reasons for cyclical sacrificial rites to the varieties of mountain deities, producing a uniquely powerful cultural history.

