

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910792751003321
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Titolo	Prophets of agroforestry : Guarani communities and commercial gathering // Richard K. Reed
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, Texas : , : University of Texas Press, , 1995 ©1995
ISBN	0-292-76173-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (272 pages) : illustrations, maps
Disciplina	338.109892133
Soggetti	Chiripa Indians - Agriculture Chiripa Indians - Economic conditions Chiripa Indians - Social conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface and Acknowledgments -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Yerba, Society, and the State in Mbaracayú -- 3. Kinship, Households, and Community -- 4. Leadership and Religion -- 5. Chiripa Agroforestry -- 6. Patronos, Capataces, and Caciques -- 7. Conclusions -- Postscript: The Chiripá and Recent Changes -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	For almost four centuries, the indigenous Chiripá (Guaraní) people of eastern Paraguay have maintained themselves as a distinct society and culture, despite continual and often intense relations with Paraguayan society and the international economy. In this study, Richard K. Reed explores the economic and social basis for this ethnic autonomy. Reed finds that Chiripá economic power derives from their practice of commercial agroforestry. Unlike Latin American indigenous societies that have been forced to clear land for commercial agriculture, the Chiripá continue to harvest and sell forest products, such as caffeinated yerba mate, without destroying the forests. Reed also explores the relation of this complex economy to Chiripá social organization and shows how flexible kin ties allowed the Chiripá to adapt to the pressure and opportunities of the commercial economy without adopting the authoritarian nature of rural Paraguayan society. These findings offer

important insights into the relations among indigenous groups, nation-states, and the international economy. They also provide a timely alternative model for sustainable management of subtropical forests that will be of interest in the fields of development and environmental studies.

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