

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910794110303321
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Titolo	Urbanization in Viking age and Medieval Denmark : from landing place to town / / Maria R. D. Corsi [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam : , : Amsterdam University Press, , 2020
ISBN	90-485-3870-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (263 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	The early Medieval North Atlantic
Disciplina	307.760948
Soggetti	Urbanization - Denmark - History Cities and towns, Medieval - Denmark Vikings - Denmark - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 20 Nov 2020).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [231]-255) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Productive sites and landing places -- The emporia network -- New forms of urbanization (c. 950-c.1050) -- Urbanization c. 1050-1200 -- Urbanization to 1350.
Sommario/riassunto	This study traces the history of urbanization in Denmark from c. 500-1350 and explores how interconnected political, religious, economic factors were instrumental in bringing about the growth of towns. Prior to urban development, certain specialized sites such as elite residences and coastal landing places performed many of the functions that would later be taken over by medieval towns. Fundamental changes in political power, the coming of Christianity, and economic development over the course of the Viking and Middle Ages led to the abandonment of these sites in favour of new urban settlements that would come to form the political, religious, and economic centres of the medieval kingdom. Bringing together both archaeological and historical sources, this study illustrates not only how certain cultural and economic shifts were crucial to the development of towns, but also the important role urbanization had in the transition from Viking to medieval Denmark.