

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910795761503321
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Titolo	Time in the wilderness : the formative years of John "Black Jack" Pershing in the American West / / Tim McNeese
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Place of publication not identified] : , : Potomac Books, , [2021] ©2021
ISBN	1-64012-406-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Classificazione	BIO008000HIS036130
Disciplina	355.0092
Soggetti	Indians of North America - Wars - 1866-1895 Spanish-American War, 1898 - Campaigns - Cuba Generals - United States BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Military HISTORY / United States / State & Local / Southwest (AZ, NM, OK, TX) Philippines History 1898-1946
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Canyon, June 1889 -- Childhood, 1860-1873 -- Community, 1873-1882 -- Cadets, 1882-1887 -- Cavalry, 1887-1890 -- Cloak, 1890-1891 -- College, 1891-1895 -- Cree, 1895-1898 -- Cuba, 1898 -- Colony, 1898-1903 -- Courtship, 1903-1909 -- Conquest, 1909-1913 -- Calamity, 1913-1916 -- Chase, 1916-1917 -- Conclusion: 1917-1948.
Sommario/riassunto	"Most Americans familiar with General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing know him as the commander of American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during the latter days of World War I. But Pershing was in his late fifties by then. Pershing's military career began in 1886, with his graduation from West Point and his first assignments in the American West as a horsebound cavalry officer during the final days of Apache resistance in the Southwest, where Arizona and New Mexico still represented a frontier of blue-clad soldiers, Native Americans, cowboys, rustlers, and miners. But the Southwest was just the beginning of Pershing's West. He would see assignments over the years in the Dakotas, during the Ghost Dance uprising and the battle of

Wounded Knee; a posting at Montana's Fort Assiniboine; and, following his years in Asia, a return to the West with a posting at the Presidio in San Francisco and a prolonged assignment on the Mexican-American border in El Paso, which led to his command of the Punitive Expedition, tasked with riding deep into Northern Mexico to capture the pistolero Pancho Villa. During those thirty years from West Point to the Western Front, Pershing had a colorful and varied military career, including action during the Spanish-American War and lengthy service in the Philippines. Both were new versions of the American frontier abroad, even as the frontier days of the American West were closing. All of Pershing's experiences in the American West prepared him for his ultimate assignment as the top American commander during the Great War. If the American frontier and, more broadly, the American West provided a cauldron in which Americans tested themselves during the nineteenth century, the same was true for John Pershing. His story was a historical Western."--
