Record Nr. UNINA9910798840603321 Autore Kalb Martin Titolo Environing Empire: Nature, Infrastructure and the Making of German Southwest Africa Pubbl/distr/stampa Berghahn Books, 2022 New York, NY:,: Berghahn Books, Incorporated,, 2022 ©2022 **ISBN** 1-80073-289-9 1-80073-457-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (322 pages) Collana Environment in History: International Perspectives;; v.23 968.8102 Disciplina Soggetti Environmental management - Namibia - History Nature and civilization - Namibia Technological innovations - Environmental aspects - Namibia HISTORY / Africa / West Namibia History 1884-1915 Namibia Colonization Environmental aspects Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Intro -- Contents -- Figures -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction --Chapter 1 - Currents, Chances, Commodities -- Chapter 2 - Accessing Arid Lands -- Chapter 3 - Harbors, Animals, Trains -- Chapter 4 -Solving Aridity -- Chapter 5 - Access and Destruction -- Chapter 6 -Expanding War and Death -- Chapter 7 - Creating a Model Colony --Conclusion -- Selected Bibliography -- Index of Places -- Index of Persons -- Index of Subjects. Sommario/riassunto Even leaving aside the vast death and suffering that it wrought on indigenous populations, German ambitions to transform Southwest Africa in the early part of the twentieth century were futile for most. For years colonists wrestled ocean waters, desert landscapes, and widespread aridity as they tried to reach inland in their effort of turning outwardly barren lands into a profitable settler colony. In his innovative

environmental history, Martin Kalb outlines the development of the

colony up to World War I, deconstructing the common settler narrative, all to reveal the importance of natural forces and the Kaisereich's everyday violence.