

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910806911603321
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Titolo	Armies, politics and revolution : Chile, 1808-1826 / / Juan Luis Ossa Santa Cruz
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Liverpool, [England] : , : Liverpool University Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	1-78138-744-3 1-78138-490-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : maps (black and white)
Collana	Liverpool Latin American Studies ; ; New Series 13
Disciplina	983.04
Soggetti	Chile History 1810- Chile History, Military 19th century Chile Politics and government 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	This work studies the political role of the Chilean military during the years 1808-1826. Beginning with the fall of the Spanish monarchy to Napoleon in 1808 and ending immediately after the last royalist contingents were expelled from the island of Chiloe, it does not seek to give a full picture of the participation of military men on the battlefield but rather to interpret their involvement in local politics. In so doing it makes a contribution to the understanding of Chile's revolution of independence, as well as to discuss some of the most recent historiographical contributions on the role of the military in the creation of the Chilean republic.