

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910807286303321
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Titolo	The ascent of chiefs : Cahokia and Mississippian politics in Native North America // Timothy R. Pauketat
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Tuscaloosa, : University of Alabama Press, c1994
ISBN	0-8173-8418-9 0-585-19354-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (255 p.)
Disciplina	977.3/89
Soggetti	Mississippian culture Chiefdoms Cahokia Mounds State Historic Park (Ill.)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Figures; Tables; Preface; 1. Introduction: A Mississippian Leviathan; 2. Chiefdoms in Theory and Practice; 3. The Sociohistorical Context of the American Bottom Region; 4. Central and Rural Mississippian Patterns; 5. Diachronic Community and Architectural Evidence; 6. Diachronic Artifactual Evidence; 7. The Generation of the Cahokian Leviathan; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This ambitious book provides a theoretical explanation of how prehistoric Cahokia became a stratified society, and ultimately the pinnacle of Native American cultural achievement north of Mexico. Considering Cahokia in terms of class struggle, Pauketat claims that the political consolidation in this region of the Mississippi Valley happened quite suddenly, around A.D. 1000, after which the lords of Cahokia innovated strategies to preserve their power and ultimately emerged as divine chiefs. The new ideas and new data in this volume will invigorate the debate surrounding one of the mo