

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810262603321
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Titolo	Our sacred maiz is our mother : indigeneity and belonging in the Americas / / Roberto Cintli Rodriguez ; with Veronica Castillo Hernandez [and eight others]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Tucson, [Arizona] : , : The University of Arizona Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-8165-9864-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (288 p.)
Classificazione	SOC044000
Disciplina	306.4
Soggetti	Indians of North America - Food - Four Corners Region Indians of North America - Agriculture - Four Corners Region Corn - Social aspects - Four Corners Region Mexican Americans - Ethnic identity Mexicans - Ethnic identity
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; List of Illustrations; Acknowledgments; A Note on Translation; Cente Tlakatl Ke Cente Cintli - Paula Domingo Olivares; Prologue; Introduction: Okichike ka Centeotzintli; Maiz Sagrado - Francisco Pos and Irma Tzirin Socop; Chapter 1. Spiritual Colonization: A Totalizing Reframing Project; Zazaniil Xilotl Huehue Tlahtolli - Tata Cuaxtle Felix Evodio; Chapter 2. Maiz Narratives and Counternarratives: When "Our Story" Begins; ¡Que Buenas las Gorditas Rellenas! - Maestra Angelbertha Cobb; Chapter 3. The Aztlanahuac Maps; Saramamalla (Nukanchik Mamashina) - Luz Maria de la Torre Chapter 4. Maiz as Civilizational Impulse and the Tortilla as Symbol of Cultural ResistanceThe Elements to Create - Maria Molina Vai Sevoi; Chapter 5. Primary Process and Principio: A Return to the Root; En el Umbral de la Agonia del Maiz Azul - Veronica Castillo Hernandez; Chapter 6. Axis Mundi: From Aztlan to Maiz; Epilogue: Resistance/Creation Culture and Seven Maiz-Based Values; Ohoyo Osh Chisba - Alicia Seyler, Choctaw; The Children of La Llorona; Appendix 1. Nahua-Maya Expressions; Appendix 2. Abbreviated

Sommario/riassunto

" 'If you want to know who you are and where you come from, follow the maiz.' That was the advice given to author Roberto Cintli Rodriguez when he was investigating the origins and migrations of Mexican peoples in the Four Corners region of the United States. Follow it he did, and his book *Our Sacred Maiz Is Our Mother* changes the way we look at Mexican Americans. Not so much peoples created as a result of war or invasion, they are people of the corn, connected through a seven-thousand-year old maiz culture to other Indigenous inhabitants of the continent. Using corn as the framework for discussing broader issues of knowledge production and history of belonging, the author looks at how corn was included in codices and Mayan texts, how it was discussed by elders, and how it is represented in theater and stories as a way of illustrating that Mexicans and Mexican Americans share a common culture. Rodriguez brings together scholarly and traditional (elder) knowledge about the long history of maiz/corn cultivation and culture, its roots in Mesoamerica, and its living relationship to Indigenous peoples throughout the continent, including Mexicans and Central Americans now living in the United States. The author argues that, given the restrictive immigration policies and popular resentment toward migrants, a continued connection to maiz culture challenges the social exclusion and discrimination that frames migrants as outsiders and gives them a sense of belonging not encapsulated in the idea of citizenship. The "hidden transcripts" of corn in everyday culture--art, song, stories, dance, and cuisine (maiz-based foods like the tortilla)--have nurtured, even across centuries of colonialism, the living maiz culture of ancient knowledge. "--
