

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910812118603321
Autore	Kennedy Gregory M. W.
Titolo	Something of a peasant paradise? : comparing rural societies in Acadie and the Loudunais, 1604-1755 // Gregory M. W. Kennedy ; book designed by Pata Macedo
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal, Quebec : , : McGill-Queen's University Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-7735-9054-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (287 p.)
Disciplina	971.5/017
Soggetti	Peasants - Acadia - History Peasants - France - Loudun - History Acadians - History Acadia History Loudun (France) History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	""Cover""; ""Contents""; ""Tables and Figures""; ""Abbreviations""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Introduction""; ""Chapter 1 The Natural Environment""; ""Chapter 2 The Political and Military Environment""; ""Chapter 3 The Rural Economy""; ""Chapter 4 The Seigneurie""; ""Chapter 5 Institutions of Local Governance""; ""Conclusion""; ""Notes""; ""Index""; ""A""; ""B""; ""C""; ""D""; ""E""; ""F""; ""G""; ""H""; ""I""; ""J""; ""K""; ""L""; ""M""; ""N""; ""O""; ""P""; ""Q""; ""R""; ""S""; ""T""; ""U""; ""V""; ""W""
Sommario/riassunto	Were Acadians better off than their rural counterparts in old regime France? Did they enjoy a Golden Age? To what degree did a distinct Acadian identity emerge before the wars and deportations of the mid-eighteenth century? In Something of a Peasant Paradise?, Gregory Kennedy compares Acadie in North America with a region of western France, the Loudunais, from which a number of the colonists originated. Kennedy considers the natural environment, the role of the state, the economy, the seigneurie, and local governance in each place to show that similarities between the two societies have been greatly underestimated or ignored. The Acadian colonists and the people of

the Loudunais were frontier peoples, with dispersed settlement patterns based on kin groups, who sought to make the best use of the land and to profit from trade opportunities. Both societies were hierarchical, demonstrated a high degree of political agency, and employed the same institutions of local governance to organize their affairs and negotiate state demands. Neither group was inherently more prosperous, egalitarian, or independent-minded than the other. Rather, the emergence of a distinct Acadian identity can be traced to the gradual adaptation of traditional methods, institutions, and ideas to their new environmental and political situations. A compelling comparative analysis based on archival evidence on both sides of the Atlantic, *Something of a Peasant Paradise?* Challenges the traditional historiography and demonstrates that Acadian society shared many of its characteristics with other French rural societies of the period.
