

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910814572403321
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Titolo	The island Chumash [[electronic resource] ] : behavioral ecology of a maritime society // Douglas J. Kennett
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2005
ISBN	0-520-93143-2 1-59734-940-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (313 p.)
Disciplina	979.4004/9758
Soggetti	Chumash Indians Indians of North America - California
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. The Island Chumash -- 2. Human Behavioral Ecology and Maritime Societies -- 3. Environmental Context -- 4. Cultural Context -- 5. Historic Island Communities -- 6. Terminal Pleistocene to Middle Holocene Records -- 7. Late Holocene Record -- 8. Synthesis -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Colonized as early as 13,500 years ago, the Northern Channel Islands of California offer some of the earliest evidence of human habitation along the west coast of North America. The Chumash people who lived on these islands are considered to be among the most socially and politically complex hunter-gatherers in the world. This book provides a powerful and innovative synthesis of the cultural and environmental history of the chain of islands. Douglas J. Kennett shows that the trends in cultural elaboration were, in part, set into motion by a series of dramatic environmental events that were the catalyst for the unprecedented social and political complexity observed historically.