Record Nr. UNINA9910815039303321 Autore Valeri Mark R Titolo Heavenly merchandize [[electronic resource]]: how religion shaped commerce in Puritan America / / Mark Valeri Princeton,: Princeton University Press, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-282-56920-1 9786612569203 1-4008-3499-6 Edizione [Core Textbook] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (354 p.) Disciplina 261.8/5097409032 Puritans - Doctrines - History - 17th century Soggetti Puritans - Doctrines - History - 18th century Puritans - Influence Business - Religious aspects - Christianity United States Religion To 1800 Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Introduction. Heavenly Merchandize -- CHAPTER ONE. Robert Keayne's Gift --CHAPTER TWO. Robert Keayne's Trials -- CHAPTER THREE. John Hull's Accounts -- CHAPTER FOUR. Samuel Sewall's Windows -- CHAPTER FIVE. Hugh Hall's Scheme -- EPILOGUE. Religious Revival -- Notes --Index Heavenly Merchandize offers a critical reexamination of religion's role Sommario/riassunto in the creation of a market economy in early America. Focusing on the economic culture of New England, it views commerce through the eves of four generations of Boston merchants, drawing upon their personal letters, diaries, business records, and sermon notes to reveal how merchants built a modern form of exchange out of profound transitions in the puritan understanding of discipline, providence, and the meaning of New England. Mark Valeri traces the careers of men like Robert Keayne, a London immigrant punished by his church for aggressive business practices; John Hull, a silversmith-turned-trader who helped

to establish commercial networks in the West Indies; and Hugh Hall,

one of New England's first slave traders. He explores how Boston ministers reconstituted their moral languages over the course of a century, from a scriptural discourse against many market practices to a providential worldview that justified England's commercial hegemony and legitimated the market as a divine construct. Valeri moves beyond simplistic readings that reduce commercial activity to secular mindsets, and refutes the popular notion of an inherent affinity between puritanism and capitalism. He shows how changing ideas about what it meant to be pious and puritan informed the business practices of Boston's merchants, who filled their private notebooks with meditations on scripture and the natural order, founded and led churches, and inscribed spiritual reflections in their letters and diaries. Unprecedented in scope and rich with insights, Heavenly Merchandize illuminates the history behind the continuing American dilemma over morality and the marketplace.

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