

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816123503321
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Titolo	Grain markets in Europe, 1500-1900 : integration and deregulation // Karl Gunnar Persson [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 1999
ISBN	1-107-11702-X 1-280-16199-X 0-511-11758-2 0-511-04045-8 0-511-14985-9 0-511-30988-0 0-511-49682-6 0-511-05221-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xx, 173 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in modern economic history ; ; 7
Disciplina	381/.4131/094
Soggetti	Grain trade - Europe Grain trade - Government policy - Europe Grain trade - Deregulation - Europe
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 160-169) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Bread and Enlightenment: the quest for price stability and free trade in eighteenth-century Europe -- 2. Markets, mortality and human capabilities -- 3. Harvest fluctuations, storage and grain-price responses -- 4. Market failures and the regulation of grain markets: a new interpretation -- 5. Market integration and the stabilisation of grain prices in Europe, 1500-1900 -- 6. Authoritarian liberalism and the decline of grain market regulation in Europe, 1760-1860.
Sommario/riassunto	In this 1999 book, Karl Gunnar Persson surveys a broad sweep of economic history, examining one of the most crucial markets - grain. His analysis allows him to draw more general lessons, for example that liberalization of markets was linked to political authoritarianism. Grain Markets in Europe traces the markets' early regulation, their poor performance and the frequent market failures. Price volatility caused by

harvest shocks was of major concern for central and local government because of the unrest it caused. Regulation became obsolete when markets became more integrated and performed better through trade triggered by falling transport costs. Persson, a specialist in economic history, uses insights from development economics, explores contemporary economic thought on the advantages of free trade, and measures the extent of market integration using the latest econometric methods. Grain Markets in Europe will be of value to scholars and students in economic history, social history and agricultural and institutional economics.
