

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816250903321
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Titolo	Settlers, Liberty, and Empire : The Roots of Early American Political Theory, 1675-1775 // Craig Yirush [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2011
ISBN	1-139-01237-1 1-107-21418-1 1-283-01597-8 9786613015976 0-511-92159-4 1-139-01164-2 1-139-01190-1 1-139-01111-1 1-139-01084-0 1-139-01137-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (ix, 277 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	HIS036020
Disciplina	320.0973
Soggetti	Political science - United States - History - 17th century Political science - United States - History - 18th century United States Politics and government To 1775
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Jasper Maudit's 'Instructions': The Imperial Roots of Early American Political Theory -- PART I. RESTORATION AND REBELLION: 1. English Rights in an Atlantic World; 2. The Glorious Revolution in America -- PART II. EMPIRE: 3. Jeremiah Dummer and the Defense of Chartered Government; 4. John Bulkley and the Mohegans; 5. Daniel Dulany and the Natural Right to English law; 6. Richard Bland and the Prerogative in Pre-Revolutionary Virginia -- PART III. REVOLUTION: 7. In Search of a Unitary Empire; 8. The Final Imperial Crisis -- Conclusion. Machine generated contents note: Introduction: Jasper Maudit's 'instructions': the imperial roots of early American political theory; Part I. Restoration and Rebellion: 1. English rights in an Atlantic world; 2.

The glorious revolution in America; Part II. Empire: 3. Jeremiah Dummer and the defense of chartered government; 4. John Bulkley and the Mohegans; 5. Daniel Dulany and the natural right to English law; 6. Richard Bland and the prerogative in pre-revolutionary Virginia; Part III. Revolution: 7. In search of a unitary empire; 8. The final imperial crisis; Conclusion.

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Sommario/riassunto

Traces the emergence of a revolutionary conception of political authority on the far shores of the eighteenth-century Atlantic world. Based on the equal natural right of English subjects to leave the realm, claim indigenous territory and establish new governments by consent, this radical set of ideas culminated in revolution and republicanism. But unlike most scholarship on early American political theory, Craig Yirush does not focus solely on the revolutionary era of the late eighteenth century. Instead, he examines how the political ideas of settler elites in British North America emerged in the often-forgotten years between the Glorious Revolution in America and the American Revolution against Britain. By taking seriously an imperial world characterized by constitutional uncertainty, geo-political rivalry and the ongoing presence of powerful Native American peoples, Yirush provides a long-term explanation for the distinctive ideas of the American Revolution.

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