

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910816974903321
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Titolo	Al-Hind, the making of the Indo-Islamic world. Volume 3, Indo-Islamic society, 14th-15th centuries [[electronic resource]] : Indo-Islamic Society, 14th-15th Centuries
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden, : BRILL, 2004
ISBN	1-280-46516-6 9786610465163 90-474-0274-X
Edizione	[2nd ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (294 p.)
Disciplina	954.02
Soggetti	India - History - 1000-1765 Muslims India History 1000-1765 India History 18th century Indian Ocean Region History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Maps; Abbreviations; Preface; Introduction; Chapter I. From the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean: medieval history in geographic perspective; Chapter II. Medieval cities; Chapter III. Frontier and settled society; Chapter IV. Post-nomadic empires; Chapter V. Islam, trade and the coastal societies of the Indian Ocean; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Focuses attention on the role of geography and, more specifically, on the interplay of nomadic, settled and maritime societies. In doing so, it presents a picture of the world of India and the Indian Ocean on the eve of the Portuguese discovery of the sea route.