

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817233603321
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Titolo	British missions around the Gulf, 1575-2005 [[electronic resource]] : Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman // by Hugh Arbuthnott, Terence Clark & Richard Muir
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Folkestone, Kent, U.K., : Global Oriental, 2008
ISBN	1-281-90652-2 9786611906528 90-04-21317-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (334 p.)
Collana	Brill eBook titles 2010
Altri autori (Persone)	ClarkTerence MuirR (Richard)
Disciplina	300 327.41053
Soggetti	Diplomatic and consular service, British - Persian Gulf Region - History Great Britain Foreign relations Persian Gulf Region Persian Gulf Region Foreign relations Great Britain
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 indexes.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Iran -- pt. 2. Iraq -- pt. 3. Kuwait -- pt. 4. Oman.
Sommario/riassunto	Recent events have once again focused international attention on the volatile politics of the Gulf region. This new book, by three former British ambassadors – all with long service in the region – demonstrates the importance of the Gulf for Britain from the days of Elizabeth I to the present. It tells the story, through the life and works of the British diplomats and consuls and the missions in which they worked, of Britain's involvement, first for trade and later for strategic purposes, in the four key regional states of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Oman. With wit and insight, the book traces the origins of today's problems from the Ottoman and Persian empires to the 1991 Gulf War and its aftermath. Those who know the region will find this a refreshing new slant on an old story, while those new to the subject will enjoy the mixture of politics and personalities ably described and analysed.