

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910821611803321
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Titolo	Histories of city and state in the Persian Gulf : Manama since 1800 // Nelida Fuccaro
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2009
ISBN	1-107-19013-4 0-511-69930-1 0-511-60448-3 0-511-60370-3 0-511-60482-3 0-511-60292-8 1-282-31782-2 0-511-60512-9 9786612317828 0-511-60542-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvi, 257 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge Middle East studies ; ; 30
Disciplina	953.53
Soggetti	Port cities - Bahrain - Manama - History Port cities - Middle East - History Manama (Bahrain) History
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. 232-247) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Indigenous state traditions and the dialectics of urbanisation in Bahrain, 1602-1923 -- The making of Gulf port towns before oil -- Ordering space, politics and community in Manama, 1880s-1919 -- Restructuring city and state: the municipality and local government -- 'Disorder', political sociability and the evolution of the urban public sphere -- City and countryside in modern Bahrain.
Sommario/riassunto	In this path-breaking and multi-layered account of one of the least explored societies in the Middle East, Nelida Fuccaro examines the political and social life of the Gulf city and its coastline, as exemplified by Manama in Bahrain. Written as an ethnography of space, politics and community, it addresses the changing relationship between urban

development, politics and society before and after the discovery of oil. By using a variety of local sources and oral histories, Fuccaro questions the role played by the British Empire and oil in state-making. Instead, she draws attention to urban residents, elites and institutions as active participants in state and nation building. She also examines how the city has continued to provide a source of political, social and sectarian identity since the early nineteenth century, challenging the view that the advent of oil and modernity represented a radical break in the urban past of the region.
