

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910822073603321
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Titolo	Met His Every Goal? : James K. Polk and the Legends of Manifest Destiny // Tom Chaffin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Knoxville : , : University of Tennessee Press, , 2015 Baltimore, Md. : , : Project MUSE, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-62190-128-9
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (145 p.)
Disciplina	973.6/1092
Soggetti	Manifest Destiny Presidents - United States United States Politics and government 1845-1849
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 index.
Nota di contenuto	Traces of the dark horse -- The expansionist -- The autocrat -- The historian and the president -- The legends of Manifest Destiny -- The road to Fort Sumter.
Sommario/riassunto	<div>Soon after winning the presidency in 1845, according to the oft- repeated anecdote, James K. Polk slapped his thigh and predicted what would be the ""four great measures"" of his administration: the acquisition of some or all of the Oregon Country, the acquisition of California, a reduction in tariffs, and the establishment of a permanent independent treasury. Over the next four years, the Tennessee Democrat achieved all four goals. And those milestones-along with his purported enunciation of them-have come to define his presidency. Indeed, repeated <i>ad infinitum</i> in U.S. history text