

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910823202203321
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Titolo	Reframing the feudal revolution : political and social transformation between Marne and Moselle, c. 800-c. 1100 // Charles West [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-24157-X 1-139-88953-2 1-316-63550-3 1-107-24778-0 1-107-25027-7 1-107-24861-2 1-107-25110-9 1-139-23702-0 1-107-24944-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 307 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in medieval life and thought ; ; 4th ser., 90
Disciplina	944/.3014
Soggetti	Social change - Europe - History - To 1500 Political culture - Europe - History - To 1500 Feudalism - Europe - History - To 1500 Carolingians France Marne River Valley History Carolingians Moselle River Valley History Marne River Valley (France) Politics and government Moselle River Valley Politics and government Marne River Valley (France) Social conditions Moselle River Valley Social conditions Europe History 476-1492
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 indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- The historiographical background -- The place of the Carolingians in the Feudal Revolution -- Methodology -- Geography and sources -- Part I. The Parameters of Carolingian Society -- 1.

Institutional integration -- Counts and the locality -- Bishops and episcopal organisation -- Royal power -- Conclusion: Structures of authority -- 2. Networks of inequality -- Aristocratic solidarities and the limits of Carolingian institutions of rule -- The logic of aristocratic dominance -- Conclusion: The dominance of lordship? -- 3. Carolingian co-ordinations -- Carolingian symbolic communication between Marne and Moselle : gifts, violence and meetings -- Characterising Carolingian symbolic communication -- From symbolic communication to economies of meaning -- Conclusion -- Part II. The long tenth-century, c. 880 to c. 1030 -- 4. The ebbing of royal power -- The distancing of royal authority -- Post-royal politics -- The causes for the retreat of royal power -- Conclusion -- 5. New hierarchies -- The transformation of the Carolingian county -- Lords and landlords in the long tenth century -- Ritual and society in the tenth century -- Conclusion: "Symbolic impoverishment" -- Part III. The exercise of authority through property rights, c. 1030-1130 -- 6. The banality of power -- The rise of banal power -- The reification of political power -- Material consequences -- Conclusion -- 7. Fiefs, Homage and the "Investiture Quarrel" -- Fiefs and dependent property -- Homage -- The "Investiture Quarrel" -- Towards a "secular liturgy"? -- Conclusion -- 8. Upper Lotharingia and Champagne around 1100 -- The new political landscape between Marne and Moselle -- Upper Lotharingia and Champagne compared -- Architectures of power -- Conclusion -- Conclusion: Between the "long twelfth century" and the settlement of disputes -- Reframing the Feudal Revolution : the Carolingian legacy -- Manuscripts index.

Sommario/riassunto

The profound changes that took place between 800 and 1100 in the transition from Carolingian to post-Carolingian Europe have long been the subject of vigorous historical controversy. Looking beyond the notion of a 'Feudal Revolution', this book reveals that a radical shift in the patterns of social organisation did occur in this period, but as a continuation of processes unleashed by Carolingian reform, rather than Carolingian political failure. Focusing on the Frankish lands between the rivers Marne and Moselle, Charles West explores the full range of available evidence, including letters, chronicles, estate documents, archaeological excavations and liturgical treatises, to track documentary and social change. He shows how Carolingian reforms worked to formalise interaction across the entire social spectrum, and that the new political and social formations apparent from the later eleventh century should be seen as long-term consequence of this process.
