

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910824669603321
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Titolo	Near Eastern royalty and Rome, 100-30 BC // Richard D. Sullivan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 1990 ©1990
ISBN	9786612011511 1-4426-7759-7 1-282-01151-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (589 p.)
Collana	Phoenix : Supplementary Volume ; ; 24 = Tome supplementaire ; ; 24
Disciplina	939.4
Soggetti	Royal houses - Middle East - History Middle East History To 622 Rome History Republic, 265-30 B.C Middle East Kings and rulers
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Maps, Illustrations, Stemmata -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Maps -- Introduction -- 1. The Historical and Geographical Position of the Late Hellenistic Dynasties -- 2. Asia Minor and the Mithradatic Wars -- 3. The Levant -- 4. Egypt -- 5. Dynasties beyond the Euphrates, 100-69 BC -- 6. Asia Minor in the Generation before Actium -- 7. The Levant -- 8. Egypt -- 9. Dynasties beyond the Euphrates -- 10. The Eastern Dynastic Network -- 11. Epilogue -- Notes -- Selected Bibliography -- Index -- Phoenix Supplementary Volumes Series -- Stemmata
Sommario/riassunto	During the first century BC, the Near and Middle East saw a great transition from the Seleucid and Ptolemaic Empires, by way of the brief Pontic and Armenian Empires, to the triumphant Parthian and Roman Empires. Richard D. Sullivan offers a guide to the central role of royalty during this period. He provides, through narrative and citations, a context for the frequent references to Eastern kings and queens by Caesar, Cicero, Strabo, Josephus, Tacitus, Appian, Dio, and others. He also discusses related inscriptions, coins, and papyri. Sullivan focuses

on the personnel of the many dynasties which rules the Near and Middle East, from Thrace through Asia Minor and the Levant to Egypt, then eastward to Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Parthia. He studies such famous figures as Mithradates Eupator, Cleopatra, and Herod the Great as well as others now obscure. To ?locate? them properly, he provides a narrative history of each dynasty and draws them together in a coherent account of Eastern royal governance and its accommodations with Rome and Parthia.

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