

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826045803321
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Titolo	Unrevolutionary England, 1603-1642 // Conrad Russell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; Ronceverte, WV (U.S.A.) : , : Hamledon Press, , 1990
ISBN	1-4725-9967-5 0-8264-2566-6 1-283-20161-5 9786613201614 1-283-20171-2 9786613201713
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (219 p.)
Disciplina	941.06/1
Soggetti	Great Britain History Early Stuarts, 1603-1649
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Essays originally published 1962-1988.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS; Preface; The Published Writings of F.J. Fisher; 1 F. J. Fisher and the Dialectic of Economic History; 2 In Memory of F. J. Fisher (edited by N.B. Harte); 3 Some Experiments in Company Organisation in the Early Seventeenth Century; 4 The Development of the London Food Market, 1540-1640; 5 Commercial Trends and Policy in Sixteenth-Century England; 6 The Development of London as a Centre of Conspicuous Consumption in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries; 7 London's Export Trade in the Early Seventeenth Century 8 The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries: The Dark Ages in English Economic History?9 Tawney's Century; 10 Influenza and Inflation in Tudor England; 11 The Growth of London; 12 London as an 'Engine of Economic Growth'; Index
Sommario/riassunto	What holds these essays together is the rejection of the idea of 'the birth of the modern world'. England before the Civil War was not a country welcoming a brave new world but one clinging fearfully to an old one. Change, where it happened, was not the result of a deliberate striving for 'progress', and the polity of pre-Civil War England was not on the point of collapse. Parliaments were not dominated by two 'sides' in training for a Cup Final at Naseby, but were groups of people

struggling with limited success to reach agreement
