

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826093003321
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Titolo	Writing Indian nations : native intellectuals and the politics of historiography, 1827-1863 // Maureen Konkle
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chapel Hill, : University of North Carolina Press, c2004
ISBN	979-88-908776-9-7 0-8078-7590-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (380 p.)
Disciplina	973.04/97
Soggetti	Indians of North America - Historiography Indians of North America - Government relations United States Intellectual life United States Race relations United States Politics and government 19th century
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 (p. [329]-355) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; 1 The Cherokee Resistance; 2 William Apess, Racial Difference, and Native History; 3 Traditionary History in Ojibwe Writing; 4 Reclaiming Red Jacket and the Confederacy in Iroquois Writing; Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Acknowledgments; Index;
Sommario/riassunto	In the early years of the republic, the US government negotiated with Indian nations. This work demonstrates that by depending on treaties, Europeans in North America institutionalized a paradox: the very documents by which they sought to dispossess Native peoples in fact conceded Native autonomy.