

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826387003321
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Titolo	Margaret of Parma : a life // Charlie R. Steen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden : , : Brill, , 2013
ISBN	90-04-25745-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (331 pages) : illustrations, portraits
Collana	Studies in medieval and Reformation traditions, , 1573-4188 ; ; volume 174
Disciplina	949.2/03092 B
Soggetti	Regents - Netherlands Netherlands History Eighty Years' War, 1568-1648 Italy History 16th 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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / Charlie R. Steen -- Introduction / Charlie R. Steen -- I. The Emperor's Daughter: A Political Offering / Charlie R. Steen -- II. Return to the Netherlands / Charlie R. Steen -- III. Lost Illusions / Charlie R. Steen -- IV. Mingling Delight with Disaster / Charlie R. Steen -- V. The Confederate Spring / Charlie R. Steen -- VI. The Calvinist Insurrection / Charlie R. Steen -- VII. D isordered and Hateful Times / Charlie R. Steen -- VIII. Uneasy Victory / Charlie R. Steen -- IX. Poisoned Peace / Charlie R. Steen -- X. Disgrace, Torment, and Shame / Charlie R. Steen -- XI. Madama Margarita / Charlie R. Steen -- Bibliography / Charlie R. Steen -- Index / Charlie R. Steen.
Sommario/riassunto	Margaret of Parma: A Life presents a woman who had a vital part in the political dramas of Reformation Europe. A natural child of Charles V, she was educated in the courts of Brussels, Florence, Rome, and Parma, and then was thrust into religious and political tumult in the Netherlands, where she showed ability and character. At eight she was moved to Italy to be educated and then married to Alessandro de' Medici. Alessandro's murder enabled Charles to marry her to Ottavio Farnese, the grandson of Pope Pius III. The union gave her years of experience in Rome. Her father's abdication took Margaret back to the Netherlands as regent for Philip II. His authoritarian rule and the

Calvinist uprising rendered the position horrifying. When rebuked and replaced by the Duke of Alba, Margaret returned to Italy as ruler of Abruzzo. The character of Margaret assured her importance as she dealt with essential issues of life and rule. This biography reveals a woman dedicated to compromise and conciliation in public affairs.
