

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826954703321
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Titolo	Foundations of modernity : human agency and the imperial state // Isa Blumi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Routledge, , 2012
ISBN	1-136-71813-3 1-283-44202-7 9786613442024 0-203-81587-4 1-136-71814-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (283 p.)
Collana	Routledge studies in modern history ; ; 9
Classificazione	HIS037060HIS055000HIS026000
Disciplina	320.1
Soggetti	State, The - History - 19th century History, Modern - 19th century Social systems - History Middle East History 19th century Turkey History 19th century Mediterranean Region History 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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Cover; Foundations of Modernity; Copyright Page; Contents; List of Figures; List of Maps; List of Abbreviations; Preface and Acknowledgements; Introduction: Relocating the Great Transformation in the Balkans and Arabia; 1. The Local Scramble for Ascendancy and the Demise of the "Era"; 2. Demarcating Imperial Boundaries and the Rise of Difference; 3. Beyond the Frontier: Subduing the Agents of Change; 4. Diasporic Agency and the Shifts in the Possibilities of Empire; 5. Capitalizing Empires and the Political Economy of Reform; Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	"Investigating how a number of modern empires transform over the long century (1789-1914) as a consequence of their struggle for ascendancy in the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, Foundations of Modernity: Human Agency and the Imperial State moves the study of

the modern empire towards a comparative, trans-regional analysis of events along the Ottoman frontiers: Western Balkans, the Persian Gulf and Yemen. This inter-disciplinary approach of studying events at different ends of the Ottoman Empire challenges previous emphasis on Europe as the only source of change and highlights the progression of modern imperial states. The book introduces an entirely new analytical approach to the study of modern state power and the social consequences to the interaction between long-ignored "historical agents" like pirates, smugglers, refugees, and the rural poor. In this respect, the roots of the most fundamental institutions and bureaucratic practices associated with the modern state prove to be the by-products of certain kinds of productive exchange long categorized in negative terms in post-colonial and mainstream scholarship. Such a challenge to conventional methods of historical and social scientific analysis is reinforced by the novel use of the work of Louis Althusser, Talal Asad, William Connolly and Frederick Cooper, whose challenges to scholarly conventions will prove helpful in changing how we understand the origins of our modern world and thus talk about Modernity. This book offers a methodological and historiographic intervention meant to challenge conventional studies of the modern era"--
