

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910827531203321
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Titolo	Religion and national identity : governing Scottish Presbyterianism in the eighteenth century // Alistair Mutch [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Edinburgh : , : Edinburgh University Press, , 2015
ISBN	1-4744-0344-1 1-4744-1251-3 0-7486-9916-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 264 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	285.2/411/09033
Soggetti	Historiography - Scotland - History - 18th century National characteristics, Scottish Religion and politics - Scotland - History - 18th century HISTORY / Europe / Western
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 09 Sep 2016).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1 Looking for practices -- 2 The emergence of a governance system -- 3 Presbyterial business -- 4 The Kirk session -- 5 Handling finances -- 6 Scottish systemic accountability -- 7 Contrasts and consequences -- 8 Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Presbyterianism has shaped Scotland and its impact on the world. Behind its beliefs lie some distinctive practices of governance which endure even when belief fades. These practices place a particular emphasis on the detailed recording of decisions and what we can term a 'systemic' form of accountability. This book examines the emergence and consolidation of such practices in the 18th-century Church of Scotland. Using extensive archival research and detailed local case studies, it contrasts them to what is termed a 'personal' form of accountability in England in the same period. The wider impact of the systemic approach to governance and accountability, especially in the United States of America, is explored, as is the enduring impact on Scottish identity. This book offers a fresh perspective on the Presbyterian legacy in contemporary Scottish historiography, at the same time as informing current debates on national identity.

