

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910838187803321
Titolo	Handbook of Ancient Afro-Eurasian Economies : Volume 3: Frontier-Zone Processes and Transimperial Exchange / / ed. by Sitta von Reden
Pubbl/distr/stampa	München ; ; Wien : , : De Gruyter Oldenbourg, , [2023] ©2023
ISBN	3-11-060497-3 3-11-060762-X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XV, 683 p.)
Disciplina	330.93
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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Sommario/riassunto

The Handbook of Ancient Afro-Eurasian Economies offers in three volumes the first comprehensive discussion of economic development in the empires of the Afro-Eurasian world region to elucidate the conditions under which large quantities of goods and people moved across continents and between empires. Volume 3: Frontier-Zone Processes and Transimperial Exchange analyzes frontier zones as particular landscapes of encounter, economic development, and transimperial network formation. The chapters offer problematizing approaches to frontier zone processes as part of and in between empires, with the goal of better understanding how and why goods and resources moved across the Afro-Eurasian region. Key frontiers in mountains and steppes, along coasts, rivers, and deserts are investigated in depth, demonstrating how local landscapes, politics, and pathways explain network practices and participation in long-distance trade. The chapters seek to retrieve local knowledge ignored in popular Silk Road models and to show the potential of frontier-zone research for understanding the Afro-Eurasian region as a connected space.