

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910962827603321
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Titolo	The constitution of empire : territorial expansion and American legal history // Gary Lawson and Guy Seidman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2004
ISBN	9786611729295 9781281729293 1281729299 9780300128963 0300128967
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (x, 271 p.))
Altri autori (Persone)	SeidmanGuy
Disciplina	342.73/0413
Soggetti	Imperialism - History Constitutional history - United States Constitutional law - United States United States Territorial expansion United States Politics and government Philosophy United States Territories and possessions Politics and government
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 207-255) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Fundamentals: Lessons from Louisiana -- 2. Forms: Trouble with Texas? -- 3. Limits: Conquest and Colonialism -- 4. Constitutional Architecture I: Territorial Legislatures and Executives -- 5. Constitutional Architecture II: Territorial Courts -- 6. War and Peace: Military Occupation and Governance -- 7. Bulwark or Façade? The Rights of Territorial Inhabitants -- Conclusion: Imperial Reflections -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Constitution of Empire offers a constitutional and historical survey of American territorial expansion from the founding era to the present day. The authors describe the Constitution's design for territorial acquisition and governance and examine the ways in which practice over the past two hundred years has diverged from that original vision.

Noting that most of America's territorial acquisitions-including the Louisiana Purchase, the Alaska Purchase, and the territory acquired after the Mexican-American and Spanish-American Wars-resulted from treaties, the authors elaborate a Jeffersonian-based theory of the federal treaty power and assess American territorial acquisitions from this perspective. They find that at least one American acquisition of territory and many of the basic institutions of territorial governance have no constitutional foundation, and they explore the often-strange paths that constitutional law has traveled to permit such deviations from the Constitution's original meaning.

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