1. Record Nr. UNISA996248103603316 Autore Curtin Philip D. Titolo The rise and fall of the plantation complex: essays in Atlantic history / / Philip D. Curtin Cambridge:,: Cambridge University Press,, 1998 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-511-46612-9 0-521-62943-8 0-511-81941-2 Edizione [Second edition.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (xiii, 222 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Studies in comparative world history Collana Disciplina 306.3/62/0973 Soggetti Slavery - America - History Plantation life - America - History America Social conditions Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references. Nota di contenuto Cover -- Half-title -- Series-title -- Title -- Copyright -- Contents --Preface -- Preface to first edition -- Beginnings -- The Mediterranean origins -- Sugar planting -- Cyprus -- The Mediterranean slave trade -- The mature plantation complex -- Forms of cultural encounter --Sugar planting: from Cyprus to the Atlantic islands -- The Atlantic islands -- Colonial institutions: the Canaries -- The westward migration -- To the Americas -- Why migration? -- Africa and the slave trade -- African isolation -- Political forms south of the Sahara -- The trans-Sahara trade -- Disease and isolation -- African, Muslim, and European slavery -- The beginning of the Atlantic trade -- Capitalism, feudalism, and sugar planting in Brazil -- Feudalism and capitalism --

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## Sommario/riassunto

Over a period of several centuries, Europeans developed an intricate system of plantation agriculture overseas which was quite different from the agricultural system used at home. Though the plantation complex centered on the American tropics, its influence was much wider. Much more than an economic order for the Americas, the plantation complex had an important place in world history. These essays concentrate on the intercontinental impact.