

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996248277103316
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Titolo	The other Prussia : Royal Prussia, Poland and liberty, 1569-1772 // Karin Friedrich [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2000
ISBN	0-511-83597-3 0-511-47064-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xix, 280 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in early modern history
Disciplina	943.8/02
Soggetti	Prusy Krolewskie (Poland) History Poland History Elective monarchy, 1572-1763 Poland History Partition period, 1763-1796
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	; 1. Introduction -- ; 2. The origins of Royal Prussia -- ; 3. Royal Prussia and urban life in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth -- ; 4. History, myth and historical identity -- ; 5. Political identity in the cities of Royal Prussia and the meaning of liberty (1650-1720) -- ; 6. Loyalty in times of war -- ; 7. Divergence: the construction of rival Prussian identities -- ; 8. Centre versus province: the Royal Prussian cities during the Great Northern War -- ; 9. Myths old and new: the Royal Prussian Enlightenment -- ; 10. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	This book considers the phenomenon of nation-building before the age of modern nationalism. It focuses on royal (Polish) Prussia - the 'other' Prussia - a province of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth from 1466 to 1772/3, and its major cities Danzig, Thorn and Elbing. As an integral part of the Polish state the Prussian estates took pride in their separate institutions and privileges. Although its urban elites became predominantly Protestant and German-speaking, they formulated a republican identity deliberately hostile to the competing monarchical-dynastic myth in neighbouring ducal Prussia, ruled by the Brandenburg-Hohenzollerns from 1618. After 1700, the Polish crown increasingly antagonized the Prussian burghers by its centralizing policies and its failure to protect the integrity of the Commonwealth's

borders. The decline of Poland and the partitions of 1772-93 guaranteed that it was not the tradition of liberty but the Hohenzollern version of Prussian identity that survived into the modern era. Joint winner of the Orbis book prize, The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.
