

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996248346403316
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Titolo	Native lords of Quito in the age of the Incas : the political economy of north-Andean chiefdoms // Frank Salomon
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 1986
ISBN	0-511-87002-7 0-511-55814-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 274 pages) : illustrations, maps; digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in social and cultural anthropology ; ; 59
Disciplina	986.6/13
Soggetti	Indians of South America - Ecuador - Quito Region - Politics and government Indians of South America - Ecuador - Quito Region - Economic conditions Incas - Politics and government Quito (Ecuador) History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Based on the author's thesis (Ph. D.--Cornell University, 1978) under title: Ethnic lords of Quito in the age of the Incas
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	List of tables, figures and maps; Preface; Acknowledgements; Introduction; 1. The problem of the 'páramo Andes'; 2. The Ilajtakuna; 3. Local and exotic components of Ilajta economy; 4. Interzonal articulation; 5. The dimensions and dynamics of chiefdom polities; 6. The Incaic impact; 7. Quito in comparative perspective; Notes; Glossary; References; Index.
Sommario/riassunto	By the time of Columbus, the people of Ecuador's tropical highlands had created small but remarkably complex and interlinked political societies. These small societies for many years proved able to fight off the overwhelming might of the Inca state. But around 1500 they fell to Inca invaders who, in turn, soon lost their dominion to Spanish warlords. Frank Salomon draws on large stores of sources to reconstruct the political and economic institutions of pre-Inca societies. Their structure before and during the Inca interlude reveals diversity in the Andean world. Salomon provides remarkable insight into the functioning of these 'chiefdoms', emphasizing their importance

for the understanding of rank, inequality, privilege and central power in stateless societies. He also contributes to our understanding of expansion, colonization, and the adaptive relationships between indigenous and imposed regimes in a context of precapitalist statecraft.

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