

1. Record Nr.	UNISALENTO991003029559707536
Autore	Cattaruzza, Marina
Titolo	La formazione del proletariato urbano : immigrati, operai di mestiere, donne a Trieste dalla meta del secolo 19. alla prima guerra mondiale / Marina Cattaruzza
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Torino : Musolini, 1979
Descrizione fisica	174 p. ; 21 cm.
Collana	Teoria e storia di classe
Disciplina	301.44
Soggetti	Proletariato - Trieste
Lingua di pubblicazione	Italiano
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNISA996333144503316
Titolo	The Dutch and English East India Companies : Diplomacy, Trade and Violence in Early Modern Asia // edited by Adam Clulow and Tristan Mostert
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam : , : Amsterdam University Press, , [2018] ©2018
ISBN	90-485-3338-4
Descrizione fisica	263 páginas ; 23 cm
Collana	Asian history
Disciplina	382.0942050903
Soggetti	History Asia History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Este volumen tiene su origen en la Conferencia celebrada en Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg at the University of Heidelberg."

Nota di bibliografia

Bibliografía .- Índices

Nota di contenuto

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Acknowledgements -- Introduction The Companies in Asia / Clulow, Adam / Mostert, Tristan -- Part 1 Diplomacy -- 1. Scramble for the spices / Mostert, Tristan -- 2. Diplomacy in a provincial setting / Meersbergen, Guido van -- 3. Contacting Japan / Matsukata, Fuyuko -- Part 2 Trade -- 4. Surat and Bombay / Chaiklin, Martha -- 5. The English and Dutch East India Companies and Indian merchants in Surat in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries / Nadri, Ghulam A. -- Part 3 Violence -- 6. Empire by Treaty? / Ittersum, Martine van -- 7. 'Great help from Japan' / Clulow, Adam -- 8. The East India Company and the foundation of Persian Naval Power in the Gulf under Nader Shah, 1734-47 / Good, Peter -- Epilog. 9. The Dutch East India Company in global history / Andrade, Tonio -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

The Dutch and English East India Companies were formidable organisations that were gifted with expansive powers that allowed them to conduct diplomacy, raise armies and seize territorial possessions. But they did not move into an empty arena in which they were free to deploy these powers without resistance. Early modern Asia stood at the center of the global economy and was home to powerful states and sprawling commercial networks. The companies may have been global enterprises but they operated in a globalised region in which they encountered a range of formidable competitors who frequently outmaneuvered or outfought their representatives. This groundbreaking collection of essays explores the place of the Dutch and English East India Companies in Asia and the nature of their interactions with Asian rulers, officials, merchants, soldiers, and brokers. With contributions from the most innovative historians in the field, this book presents new ways to understand these organisations by focusing on their diplomatic, commercial, and military interactions with Asia.