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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Paradoxical politics: negotiating the contradictions of political authority / Sarah Kurnick -- Chapter 2. Theories of power and legitimacy in archaeological contexts: the emergent regime of power at the formative Maya community of Ceibal, Guatemala / Takeshi Inomata -- Chapter 3. Negotiating political authority and community in terminal formative coastal Oaxaca / Arthur A. Joyce [and four others] -- Chapter 4. Conflicting political strategies in late formative to early classic central Jalisco / Christopher S. Beekman -- Chapter 5. Patron deities and politics among the classic Maya / Joanne Baron -- Chapter 6. Entangled political strategies: rulership, bureaucracy, and intermediate elites at Teotihuacan / Tatsuya Murakami -- Chapter 7. Landscapes, lordships, and sovereignty in Mesoamerica / Bryce Davenport and Charles Golden -- Chapter 8. Ruling "Purepecha Chichimeca" in a Tarascan world / Helen Perlstein Pollard -- Chapter 9. Reflections on the archaeopolitical: pursuing the universal within a unity of opposites / Simon Martin -- List of contributors -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	New data from a variety of well-known scholars in Mesoamerican archaeology reveal the creation, perpetuation, and contestation of politically authoritative relationships between rulers and subjects and between nobles and commoners. The contributions span the geographic breadth and temporal extent of pre-Columbian Mesoamerica—from Preclassic Oaxaca to the Classic Petén region of Guatemala to the Postclassic Michoacán—and the contributors weave together archaeological, epigraphic, and ethnohistoric data. Grappling with the questions of how those exercising authority convince others to follow and why individuals often choose to recognize and comply with authority, Political Strategies in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica discusses why the study of political authority is both timely and significant, reviews how scholars have historically understood the operation of political authority, and proposes a new analytical framework to understand how rulers rule.