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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	; Introduction: Sufism, Sufis and Transformation. Qur'an, Transformative Practices and the Discipline of Sufism: 700-1000 -- Institutionalization of Sufi Practice -- Sufi Shrines: Down-to-earth, Day-to-day, Devotional Sufism for the Masses -- Sufi Authority and Politics -- The Relationship between the Shaykh and the Seeker -- Sufi Varieties of Transformative Practice: Transformation of the Ego-Self -- Two Contemporary Women Sufi Teachers -- ; Afterword: Future Scenarios for Sufi Practice: Guesses for the Twenty-first Century.
Sommario/riassunto	"Sufism is all too often associated just with 'mysticism' in the West. The author of this new textbook, a former pupil of Annemarie Schimmel, suggests that conflating Sufism and mysticism is only partially valid. He shows that the vast majority of Sufi practice, both historically and in the contemporary world, has little or nothing to do with a esoteric transcendence but is rather focused on contemplative activity. Such

practice might involve art, music, devotional shrine visitation - even politics and psychology. Placing Sufism in a wider Islamic contemplative context enables Arthur F Buehler to examine Sufi history, as well as current application, against a backdrop that is richer and more inclusive than that portrayed in many competing introductory surveys. Discussing the origins of Sufism; the development of Sufi lineages (via three founder figures); Sufi lodges and the role of Sufism in colonial resistance; Sufi poetry; Sufi shrines, and Sufism in the West, the author rescues his topic from the idea that it means only union with the divine. In this original new treatment, Sufism emerges as complex and multi-layered."--Bloomsbury Publishing.
