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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Preface -- Part One -- Chapter 1: From an Essentialist to a Multicultural Identity -- Chapter 2: A Critique of the Jewish Identity Discourse -- Chapter 3: Primordial Identity: The Jewish Case -- Part Two -- Chapter 4: Between a Rights Discourse and an Identity Discourse -- Chapter 5: "Religion and State": A Critical Analysis -- Chapter 6: On Exile, Strangers, and Sovereignty: Identity in the Biblical Tradition -- Bibliography -- Sources -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Two basic approaches have shaped the identity discourse since antiquity. The essentialist view assumes that a person's identity does exist "somewhere," and the discourse on identity is an attempt to disclose it. People do not create their identity, they only realize it. The opposite, deconstructionist view, assumes that the identity is only a linguistic fiction; we have no identity outside our concrete history, which reflects a constantly ongoing dynamic change. The present book offers a third option. It accepts that identity is not a priori datum that precedes our existence but claims we do have a set historical cultural identity it calls "primary," expressing a permanent foundation of our biography. On its basis, we build our concrete identity. Engaging in a critical analysis, the book exposes the foundations and the borders of the identity field. As a test case that illustrates its claims, it presents the discourse on Jewish identity. Lively, vigorous, and widely recorded, this discourse conveys many nuances of the tension between continuity

and change and is thus uniquely fit to convey the significance of the identity discourse.
