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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Pre-Islamic Arab political identity -- 3. Founding the first Arab Empire -- 4. Of friendship and politics -- 5. Politics of hospitality -- 6. Arrival of the Turks -- 7. Erasing Arab identity.
Sommario/riassunto	This book explores the long history of the evolution of Arab political identity, which predates the time of the Prophet Muhammad and is characterized by tolerance, compassion, generosity, hospitality, self-control, correct behaviour, equality and consensus. The author argues that present day struggles in many Arab countries to redefine polities and politics are related to the fact that the underlying political culture of the Arabs has been overridden for centuries by successive political regimes which have deviated from the original political culture, and which the Prophet adhered to. The book outlines the political culture that existed before Islam, examines how the Conquests and the rule of the early dynasties (Umayyad and Abbasid) of the Islamic world found it necessary to override it, and analyses the effect of rule by non-Arabs - successively Mamluks, Ottoman Turks and Western colonial powers. It discusses the impact of these distortions on present day politics in the

Arab world, and concludes by appealing for a reawakening of, and respect for, the cultural elements underlying the origins of Arab political identity.
