

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910282247403321
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Titolo	Fluid Networks and Hegemonic Powers in the Western Indian Ocean // Iain Walker, Manuel João Ramos, Preben Kaarsholm
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lisboa, : Centro de Estudos Internacionais, 2017
ISBN	979-1-03-651137-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (196 p.)
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Soggetti	Humanities, Multidisciplinary Africa África
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	The present volume sets forth to analyse illustrative aspects of the deep-rooted immersion of the populations of the eastern coasts of Africa in the vast network of commercial, cultural and religious interactions that extend to the Middle-East and the Indian subcontinent, as well as the long-time involvement of various exogenous military, administrative and economic powers (Ottoman, Omani, Portuguese, Dutch, British, French and, more recently, European-Americans).