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Nota di contenuto	Contemporary challenges and historical reflections on the study of militaries, states, and politics / Diane E. Davis -- Armed force, regimes, and contention in Europe since 1650 / Charles Tilly -- Limited war and limited states / Miguel Angel Centeno -- Where do all the soldiers go? : veterans and the politics of demobilization / Alec Campbell -- Military mobilization and the transformation of property relationships : wars that defined the Japanese style of capitalism / Eiko Ikegami -- Send a thief to catch a thief : state-building and the employment of irregular military formations in mid-nineteenth-century Greece / Achilles Batalas. Reform and reaction : paramilitary groups in contemporary Colombia / Mauricio Romero -- Policing the people, building the state : the police-

military nexus in Argentina, 1880-1945 / Laura Kalmanowiecki -- War-making and U.S. state formation : mobilization, demobilization, and the inherent ambiguities of federalism / Susan M. Browne -- Politics is thicker than blood : Union and Confederate veterans in the U.S. House of Representatives in the late nineteenth century / Richard Franklin Bensel -- Police municipale and the formation of the French state / Lizabeth Zack -- Domestic militarization in a transnational perspective : patriotic and militaristic youth mobilization in France and Indochina, 1940-1945 / Anne Raffin -- Changing nature of warfare and the absence of state-building in West Africa / William Reno -- Ghost of Vietnam : America confronts the new world disorder / Ian Roxborough -- Armed forces, coercive monopolies, and changing patterns of state formation and violence / Anthony W. Pereira.

Sommario/riassunto

Existing models of state formation are derived primarily from early Western European experience, and are misleading when applied to nation-states struggling to consolidate their dominion in the present period. In this volume, scholars suggest that the Western European model of armies waging war on behalf of sovereign states does not hold universally. The importance of 'irregular' armed forces - militias, guerrillas, paramilitaries, mercenaries, bandits, vigilantes, police, and so on - has been seriously neglected in the literature on this subject. The case studies in this book suggest, among other things, that the creation of the nation-state as a secure political entity rests as much on 'irregular' as regular armed forces. For most of the 'developing' world, the state's legitimacy has been difficult to achieve, constantly eroding or challenged by irregular armed forces within a country's borders. No account of modern state formation can be considered complete without attending to irregular forces.
