

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910452864803321
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Titolo	The Apa Tanis and their neighbours : a primitive civilization of the Eastern Himalayas / / Christoph von Furer-Haimendorf
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxon [England] : , : Routledge, , 2004
ISBN	1-138-86202-9 1-315-01782-2 1-136-54529-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (234 p.)
Collana	Routledge library editions. Anthropology and ethnography. South Asia ; ; II
Disciplina	305.89
Soggetti	Apatani (Indic people) Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First published in 1962.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half Title; Title Page; Copyright Page; Original Title Page; Original Copyright Page; Dedication; Table of Contents; List of Illustrations; Introduction; I. The Utilization of Natural Resources; II. Trade and Barter; III. Social Structure; IV. The Position of Slaves; V. Family Life; VI. The Maintenance of Law and Order; VII. Relations with Neighbours in Peace and War; VIII. Religion and the Moral Order; Epilogue; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Inhabiting a secluded valley in the Eastern Himalayas, the Apa Tanis remained virtually unknown to the outside world until 1944-45 when the author spent several months in their villages, studying their internal social structure as well as their political and economic relations with neighbouring tribes. The economy of the Apa Tanis, who knew neither the principle of animal traction nor the wheel, resembled that of certain Neolithic societies, but the methods used in the exploitation of their natural environment were far from primitive, and a developed agriculture enabled a population of so