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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 212-224) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Developments in the political structure of early Japanese society -- 3. The earliest forms of tsumi : kunitsutsumi and amatsutsumi -- 4. Tsumi during the development of kingship -- 5. Tsumi during the transformation from okimi to tenno -- 6. Tsumi under the early ritsuryo state -- 7. Conclusion : the resolution of tsumi.
Sommario/riassunto	Covering the period from before the emergence of the first political units through to the formation of the Japanese ritsuryo state in the 8th century, this book offers a ground-breaking scholarly diachronic analysis of tsumi (offence and retribution) from a politico-historical perspective. Taking as its starting point the native forms of tsumi in the realms of myth and prayer, the study traces their development through the periods of the formation of the state and the centralization of the governing structure, to the introduction of a written-law system of governing. Through detailed and logic