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Nota di contenuto	Foreword / Frans de Waal -- Preface -- Introduction -- Origins of Japanese primatology and Kinji Imanishi -- Quest for the missing link -- 1. At the beginning -- Lake and forest -- The African ape research party sets out -- 2. Food and feeding behaviour -- Fission and fusion of parties ranging for food -- Dispersal of seeds -- Tastes of food -- Leaf swallowing and bitter pith ingestion -- Hunting -- Scavenging -- Insect eating -- Daily activity rhythm -- Predation on chimpanzees -- 3. Growth and development -- Developmental stages -- Infancy -- Development of feeding techniques -- Food sharing between mother and offspring -- Weaning -- Juvenility -- Adolescence -- Siblings -- Ageing and death -- 4. Play and exploration -- Locomotor-rotational play -- Object play -- Social play -- Comparisons with human play --

5. Communication as culture -- Social grooming -- Courtship -- Vocal communication -- Other behavioural differences -- 6. Female life histories -- Foster mothers and orphans -- The extinction of K-group -- Immigrant and resident female relationships -- Infanticide and cannibalism -- Female friendships -- 7. Sexual strategies -- Initiation of mating -- Sexual selection -- Male and female sex appeal -- 8. Male political strategies -- Male intimidation displays -- Alpha males and power takeovers -- Power takeovers in K-group -- Ntologi, unparalleled leader of M-group -- Kalunde's rule -- Ntologi restored -- Ntologi lose again and Nsaba's hegemony begins -- The age of new leaders -- Meat sharing and chimpanzee politics -- Turnover mechanism of power -- 9. Culture -- Chimpanzee culture -- Innovations that spread -- Innovations that failed to spread -- Human and chimpanzee cultures compared -- 10. Conservation and the future -- The significance of chimpanzee research -- Ecotourism -- Keeping a pristine environment -- Preservation of the chimpanzee.

Sommario/riassunto

Chimpanzees are humanity's closest living relations and are of enduring interest to a range of sciences, from anthropology to zoology. In the West, many know of the pioneering work of Jane Goodall, whose studies of these apes at Gombe in Tanzania are justly famous. Less well-known, but equally important, are the studies carried out by Toshisada Nishida on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika. Comparison between the two sites yields both notable similarities and startling contrasts. Nishida has written a comprehensive synthesis of his work on the behaviour and ecology of the chimpanzees of the Mahale Mountains. With topics ranging from individual development to population-specific behavioural patterns, it reveals the complexity of social life, from male struggles for dominant status to female travails in raising offspring. Richly illustrated, the author blends anecdotes with powerful data to explore the fascinating world of the chimpanzees of the lakeshore.
