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Autore	McCants William Faizi <1975->
Titolo	Founding gods, inventing nations [[electronic resource]] : conquest and culture myths from antiquity to Islam / / William F. McCants
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ISBN	1-283-28067-1 9786613280671 1-4008-4006-6
Edizione	[Core Textbook]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (192 p.)
Disciplina	939/.40072
Soggetti	Mythology, Middle Eastern Greeks - Middle East - History Romans - Middle East - History Arabs - Middle East - History Acculturation - Middle East - History Civilization - Philosophy Electronic books. Middle East Civilization Historiography Middle East Civilization Philosophy Middle East Intellectual life Middle East Colonization
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Gifts of the gods : the origins of civilization in ancient Near Eastern and Greek mythology -- The beneficent sky god : cultural history in the Qur'an -- Who was first? : photography and discovery catalogs -- Inventing nations : postconquest native histories of civilization's origins -- "The sciences of the ancients" : speculation on the origins of philosophy, medicine, and the exact sciences.
Sommario/riassunto	From the dawn of writing in Sumer to the sunset of the Islamic empire, <i>Founding Gods, Inventing Nations</i> traces four thousand years of speculation on the origins of civilization. Investigating a vast range of primary sources, some of which are translated here for the first time,

and focusing on the dynamic influence of the Greek, Roman, and Arab conquests of the Near East, William McCants looks at the ways the conquerors and those they conquered reshaped their myths of civilization's origins in response to the social and political consequences of empire. The Greek and Roman conquests brought with them a learned culture that competed with that of native elites. The conquering Arabs, in contrast, had no learned culture, which led to three hundred years of Muslim competition over the cultural orientation of Islam, a contest reflected in the culture myths of that time. What we know today as Islamic culture is the product of this contest, whose protagonists drew heavily on the lore of non-Arab and pagan antiquity. McCants argues that authors in all three periods did not write about civilization's origins solely out of pure antiquarian interest--they also sought to address the social and political tensions of the day. The strategies they employed and the postcolonial dilemmas they confronted provide invaluable context for understanding how authors today use myth and history to locate themselves in the confusing aftermath of empire.

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