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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Social matters : infrastructure, premises & practices Sea people, Ahl al-Bahr : livelihoods and profits Coastal plains & sands : livelihoods & profits Mountain living : Ru'us al-Jibal Mountain living : western Hajar Distribution of produce & services Ruling and rulers What happened to turn our world upside-down? Back to history.
Sommario/riassunto	Based on interviews and field research, the authors explore the sets of ideas Arab tribespeople from Ras Al-Khaimah had about tribe and community; social and economic networks, and jural contracts for livelihoods and profits; their uses of their environments; the moral relations of credit, debt and labour; ruling; economic and political

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transformations; and ideas of regional history where conflicts were regarded as disputes over sets of ideas, and informal accounts of tribal and local histories. Their lively descriptions and explanations of life before oil portrayed tribal societies whose relationships were moral rather than political and were between jurally equal persons. All lived from their own resources; 'wealth' was material self-sufficiency; 'riches' the richness of social relationships. Political arenas were decentralised and underpinned by common cultural and moral values. Published sources give a wider context to these ideas and events which show the great complexity and differing perspectives of 'life before oil' in the Gulf.