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Nota di contenuto	Acknowledgements -- Summary -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Fieldwork conditions and research methodology -- 3. Historical background -- 4. Refugee reflections on the social conditions of exile in Niamey and Abala -- 5. The refugees in retrospect in Mali -- 6. "The true history of Azawagh"(tarekhg wan tidit n Azawagh) -- 7. Adinat wi ataf nen atarekh (those who hold the culture, history, or tradition) -- 8. Conclusion-a "critical event" -- List of Acronyms -- Bibliography.
Sommario/riassunto	The Truth about the Desert explores the living conditions under which Tuareg refugees from northern Mali rebuild their lives in the Nigerien diaspora and how these conditions affect their self-understandings and cultural practices, established status hierarchies, and religious identity formation. The book counterbalances an earlier scholarly preoccupation with Tuareg nobility by zoning in on two inferior social status groups, the Bellah-Iklan and free-born vassals, which have been neglected in conventional accounts of Tuareg society. By offering a multi-layered analysis of social status and identity formation in the diaspora, it pleads for a more dynamic understanding of Tuareg socio-political hierarchies. Analyzing in detail how both status groups rely on moralizing labels and racial stereotyping to reformulate their own social and ethnic identity, the study highlights refugees' aspirations and capacities to remake their imaginary and material worlds in the face of adverse and often deeply humiliating living conditions. The book provides vital insights for refugee studies and for scholarly

debates on ethnicity, social identity formation, and memory politics.
