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Autore Apard Élodie

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Marc-Antoine Pérouse de Montclos

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Altri autori (Persone) ChouinGérard

GarçonLou

Gyang MangHenry HarnischfegerJohannes

HoechnerHannah MohammedKyari OnuohaFreedom

Pérouse de MontclosMarc-Antoine

PieriZacharias ReinertManuel RoelofsPortia SerranoRafael

Pérouse de MontclosMarc-Antoine

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Sommario/riassunto This book is the first attempt to understand Boko Haram in a

comprehensive and consistent way. It examines the early history of the

sect and its transformation into a radical armed group. It analyses the causes of the uprising against the Nigerian state and evaluates the consequences of the on-going conflict from a religious, social and political point of view. The book gives priority to authors conducting fieldwork in Nigeria and tackles the following issues: the extent to which Boko Haram can be considered the product of deprivation and marginalisation; the relationship of the sect with almajirai, Islamic schools, Sufi brotherhoods, Izala, and Christian churches; the role of security forces and political parties in the radicalisation of the sect; the competing discourses in international and domestic media coverage of the crisis; and the consequences of the militarisation of the conflict for the Nigerian government and the civilian population, Christian and Muslim.