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Nota di contenuto	Rediscovering a lost world -- How do the Hittites tell us about themselves? The dawn of the Hittite era -- The legacy of an ailing king -- "Now bloodshed has become common" -- The setting for an empire -- Building an empire -- Lion or pussycat? -- From near extinction to the threshold of international supremacy -- The greatest kingdom of them all -- Intermediaries of the gods: the great kings of Hatti -- King by default -- Health, hygiene and healing -- Justice and the commoner.
Sommario/riassunto	"The Hittites in the Late Bronze Age became the mightiest military power in the Ancient Near East. Yet their empire was always vulnerable to destruction by enemy forces; their Anatolian homeland occupied a remote region, with no navigable rivers; and they were cut off from the sea. Perhaps most seriously, they suffered chronic under-population and sometimes devastating plague. How, then, can the rise and triumph of this ancient imperium be explained, against seemingly insuperable odds? In his lively and unconventional treatment of one of antiquity's most mysterious civilizations, whose history disappeared from the records over three thousand years ago, Trevor Bryce sheds fresh light on Hittite warriors as well as on the Hittites' social, religious and political culture and offers new solutions to many unsolved

questions. Revealing them to have been masters of chariot warfare, who almost inflicted disastrous defeat on Rameses II at the Battle of Qadesh (1274 BCE), he shows the Hittites also to have been devout worshippers of a pantheon of storm-gods and many other gods, and masters of a new diplomatic system which bolstered their authority for centuries"--
