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Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Breathing Spaces and Leverage: Reasons Behind the African Conferences and Commissions -- 3. Commissions and British Governmental Control -- 4. Conferences and British Governmental Control -- 5. Strengthening Voices: Constitutional Commissions and Popular Opinion and Politics in Africa -- 6. Conferences and Popular Opinion and Politics in Africa in the Wind of Change Era -- 7. Successes, Failures, and Consequences of the Commissions and Conferences -- 8. Conclusion -- Appendix A: London Decolonisation Conferences 1930-1965 -- Appendix B: Key Information Relating to the Commissions -- Bibliography --Index.
Sommario/riassunto	This book examines conferences and commissions held for British colonial territories in east and central Africa in the early 1960s. Until 1960, the British and colonial governments regularly employed hard

methods of colonial management in east and central Africa, such as instituting states of emergency and imprisoning political leaders. A series of events at the end of the 1950s made hard measures no longer feasible, including criticism from the United Nations. As a result, softer measures became more prevalent, and the use of constitutional conferences and commissions became an increasingly important tool for the British government in seeking to manage colonial affairs. During the period 1960-64, a staggering 16 conferences and 10 constitutional commissions were held for British colonies in east and central Africa. This book is the first of its kind to provide a detailed overview of how the British sought to make use of these events to control and manage the pace of change. The author also demonstrates how commissions and conferences helped shape politics and African popular opinion in the early 1960s. Whilst giving the British government temporary respite, conferences and commissions ultimately accelerated the decolonisation process by transferring more power to African political parties and engendering softer perceptions on both sides. Presenting both British and African perspectives, this book offers an innovative exploration into the way that these episodes played an important part in the decolonisation of Africa. It shows that far from being dry and technical events, conferences and commissions were occasions of drama that tell us much about how the British government and those in Africa engaged with the last days of empire. Peter Docking is a visitor in the history department at Kings College, London, where he gained his PhD. He is a former solicitor. Peter has research interests in decolonisation and the role of international conferences.
