Record Nr. UNINA9910544263303321 African conflicts and informal power [[electronic resource]]: big men **Titolo** and networks / / edited by Mats Utas Pubbl/distr/stampa London, England:,: Zed Books,, 2012 [London, England]: ,: Bloomsbury Publishing, , 2021 **ISBN** 1-350-21813-8 1-280-06281-9 9786613519979 1-84813-884-9 Descrizione fisica vii, 255 p Collana Africa now Classificazione LB 42465 LB 51465 Disciplina 327.16096 Soggetti Politics and war - Africa Conflict management - Africa International relations Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto pt. 1. Country case studies -- pt. 2. Thematic case studies. Sommario/riassunto "In the aftermath of an armed conflict in Africa, the international community both produces and demands from local partners a variety of blueprints for reconstructing state and society. The aim is to reformalize the state after what is viewed as a period of fragmentation. In reality. African economies and polities are very much informal in character, with informal actors, including so-called Big Men, often using their positions in the formal structure as a means to reach their own goals. Through a variety of in-depth case studies, including the DRC, Sierra Leone and Liberia, African Conflicts and Informal Power shows how important informal political and economic networks are in many of the continent's conflict areas. Moreover, it demonstrates that without a proper understanding of the impact of these networks. attempts to formalize African states, particularly those emerging from wars, will be in vain"--Provided by publisher.