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Nota di contenuto	1. The Incomplete State: Fifty Shades of Failure -- 2. Understanding State-Building in Central Asia -- 3. Follow the Water: Soviet Legacy as Cross-Border Societal Interdependence -- 4. Impact of External Actors on States and Societies -- 5. When Elites Meet: The Struggle for Power and its Social Meaning.
Sommario/riassunto	This book is about transformation of the state and an incomplete state-building. It defies the transitology assumption of continuity, linearity and dichotomy of formal and informal in the transformation of the state. Contrary to the conventional approaches, it claims that any social order or its political scaffolding, the state, is always incomplete and we need to develop cognitive maps to better understand that incompleteness. It reflects on the social practices, processes and patterns that evolve as a non-linear result of three sets of factors: those that are historical, external, and elite-driven. Three Central Asian states - Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan - are examined here

comparatively as case studies, as Central Asia represents an interesting terrain to challenge conventional understanding of the state.

Specifically, the book captures a paradox at hand: how come three states, which made different political, economic, cultural, and social choices at the outset of their independence in the 1990s, have ended up as so-called “weak states” in the 2000s and onwards? This puzzle can be better understood through looking at the relationship among three main sets of factors that shape state-building processes, such as history, external actors, and local elites. This book applies an interdisciplinary approach, combining political anthropology, political economy, sociology, and political science. It helps conceptualize and understand social and political order beyond the “failed state” paradigm. Viktoria Akchurina is Senior Lecturer at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Her research focuses on state-building in Central Asia and the Middle East, comparatively.
