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Titolo	Mortgaging the ancestors [[electronic resource]] : ideologies of attachment in Africa / / Parker Shipton
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (348 p.)
Collana	Yale agrarian studies series
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [289]-314) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Sand and gold: some property history and theory -- Luo and others: migration, settlement, ethnicity -- An earthly anchorage: graves and the grounding of belonging -- Birthright and its borrowing: inheritance and land clientage under pressure -- The thin end: land and credit in the colonial period -- The ghost market: land titling and mortgaging after independence -- Nothing more serious: mortgaging and struggles over ancestral land -- Bigger than law: land and constitutionalism -- Conclusion: property, improperty, and the mortgage.
Sommario/riassunto	This fascinating interdisciplinary book is about land, belonging, and the mortgage-and how people of different cultural backgrounds understand them in Africa. Drawing on years of ethnographic observation, Parker Shipton discusses how people in Africa's interior feel about their attachment to family, to clan land, and to ancestral graves on the land. He goes on to explain why systems of property, finance, and mortgaging imposed by outsiders threaten Africa's rural people. The book looks briefly at European and North American theories on private property and the mortgage, then shows how these

theories have played out as attempted economic reforms in Africa. They affect not just personal ownership and possession, he suggests, but also the complex relationships that add up to civil order and episodic disorder over a longer history. Focusing particular attention on the Luo people of Kenya, Shipton challenges assumptions about rural economic development and calls for a broader understanding of local realities in Africa and beyond.
