

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778403403321
Autore	Holtzman Jon
Titolo	Uncertain tastes [[electronic resource]] : memory, ambivalence, and the politics of eating in Samburu, northern Kenya / / Jon Holtzman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2009
ISBN	1-282-35995-9 9786612359958 0-520-94482-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (297 p.)
Disciplina	641.30089/965
Soggetti	Samburu (African people) - Food Samburu (African people) - Domestic animals Samburu (African people) - Social conditions Food habits - Kenya - Samburu District Food preferences - Kenya - Samburu District Food - Symbolic aspects - Kenya - Samburu District Culture conflict - Kenya - Samburu District Social change - Kenya - Samburu District Samburu District (Kenya) Social conditions Samburu District (Kenya) Economic conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Part 1. Orientations -- Part 2. Worlds of Food -- Part 3. Histories of Eating -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This richly drawn ethnography of Samburu cattle herders in northern Kenya examines the effects of an epochal shift in their basic diet-from a regimen of milk, meat, and blood to one of purchased agricultural products. In his innovative analysis, Jon Holtzman uses food as a way to contextualize and measure the profound changes occurring in Samburu social and material life. He shows that if Samburu reaction to the new foods is primarily negative-they are referred to disparagingly as "gray food" and "government food"-it is also deeply ambivalent. For example,

the Samburu attribute a host of social maladies to these dietary changes, including selfishness and moral decay. Yet because the new foods save lives during famines, the same individuals also talk of the triumph of reason over an antiquated culture and speak enthusiastically of a better life where there is less struggle to find food. Through detailed analysis of a range of food-centered arenas, *Uncertain Tastes* argues that the experience of food itself-symbolic, sensuous, social, and material-is intrinsically characterized by multiple and frequently conflicting layers.
