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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Figures and Table -- Preface -- A Note on Transliteration -- Chapter 1. Rethinking Collective Identity -- Chapter 2. A Generation of Change -- Chapter 3. 'Arab Architectonics -- Chapter 4. Capitalism and the Politics of Domestic Space -- Chapter 5. National Representations: The Tribalism Debate -- Chapter 6. The Election of Identity -- Chapter 7. Constructing Culture and Tradition in the Valley -- Chapter 8. Monarchal Posture -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this provocative examination of collective identity in Jordan, Linda Layne challenges long-held Western assumptions that Arabs belong to easily recognizable corporate social groups. Who is a "true" Jordanian? Who is a "true" Bedouin? These questions, according to Layne, are examples of a kind of pigeonholing that has distorted the reality of Jordanian national politics. In developing an alternate approach, she shows that the fluid social identities of Jordan emerge from an ongoing dialogue among tribespeople, members of the intelligentsia, Hashemite rulers, and Western social scientists. Many commentators on social identity in the Middle East limit their studies to the village level, but

Layne's goal is to discover how the identity-building processes of the locality and of the nation condition each other. She finds that the tribes create their own cultural "homes" through a dialogue with official nationalist rhetoric and Jordanian urbanites, while King Hussein, in turn, maintains the idea of the "homeland" in ways that are powerfully influenced by the tribespeople. The identities so formed resemble the shifting, irregular shapes of postmodernist land-scapes--but Hussein and the Jordanian people are also beginning to use a classically modernist linear narrative to describe themselves. Layne maintains, however, that even with this change Jordanian identities will remain resistant to all-or-nothing descriptions.
