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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Maps and Tables -- Plates -- Acknowledgments -- Conventions -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Oral Epics -- 3. The Elder Brothers and the Heroes of Palnu -- 4. The Epic of Pbj -- 5. Opening lh -- 6. The Nine-Lkh Chain -- 7. The Story of Ka -- 8. Kuruketra II -- 9. Time-Routes through the Kacarita -- 10. Their Name Is Legion -- 11. The Ballad of Rja Desing -- 12. Barbarka, Arav, Kttavar: Furthering the Case of the Severed Head -- 13. The Myth of the Agnivama -- 14. Draupad Becomes Bel, Bel Becomes Sat -- Abbreviations -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Throughout India and Southeast Asia, ancient classical epics-the Mahabharata and the Ramayana-continue to exert considerable cultural influence. Rethinking India's Oral and Classical Epics offers an

unprecedented exploration into South Asia's regional epic traditions. Using his own fieldwork as a starting point, Alf Hiltebeitel analyzes how the oral tradition of the south Indian cult of the goddess Draupadi and five regional martial oral epics compare with one another and tie in with the Sanskrit epics. Drawing on literary theory and cultural studies, he reveals the shared subtexts of the Draupadi cult Mahabharata and the five oral epics, and shows how the traditional plots are twisted and classical characters reshaped to reflect local history and religion. In doing so, Hiltebeitel sheds new light on the intertwining oral traditions of medieval Rajput military culture, Dalits ("former Untouchables"), and Muslims. Breathtaking in scope, this work is indispensable for those seeking a deeper understanding of South Asia's Hindu and Muslim traditions. This work is the third volume in Hiltebeitel's study of the Draupadi cult. Other volumes include *Mythologies: From Gingee to Kuruksetra* (Volume One), *On Hindu Ritual and the Goddess* (Volume Two), and *Rethinking the Mahabharata* (Volume Four).

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