Record Nr. UNINA9910783195303321 Autore Thomas Lynn M Titolo Politics of the womb [[electronic resource]]: women, reproduction, and the state in Kenya / / Lynn M. Thomas Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2003 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-59734-818-X 9786612762765 1-282-76276-1 0-520-93664-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (318 p.) Disciplina 305.4/096762 Soggetti Women - Kenya - History Female genital mutilation - Kenya - History Women - Kenya - Social conditions Sex role - Kenya Kenya Social conditions Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. 235-287) and index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- List Of Abbreviations -- Introduction -- 1. Imperial Populations And "Women's Affairs" -- 2. Colonial Uplift And Girl-Midwives -- 3. Mau Mau And The Girls Who "Circumcised Themselves" -- 4. Late Colonial Customs And Wayward Schoolgirls -- 5. Postcolonial Nationalism And "Modern" Single Mothers -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index In more than a metaphorical sense, the womb has proven to be an Sommario/riassunto important site of political struggle in and about Africa. By examining the political significance-and complex ramifications-of reproductive controversies in twentieth-century Kenya, this book explores why and how control of female initiation, abortion, childbirth, and premarital pregnancy have been crucial to the exercise of colonial and postcolonial power. This innovative book enriches the study of gender, reproduction, sexuality, and African history by revealing how reproductive controversies challenged long-standing social hierarchies

and contributed to the construction of new ones that continue to

influence the fraught politics of abortion, birth control, female genital cutting, and HIV/AIDS in Africa.