

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783313403321
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Titolo	Middlemen of the Cameroons Rivers : the Duala and their hinterland, c. 1600-c.1960 // Ralph A. Austen and Jonathan Derrick [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 1999
ISBN	1-107-12714-9 1-280-15991-X 1-139-14561-4 0-511-11639-X 0-511-06567-1 0-511-05936-1 0-511-33037-5 0-511-49726-1 0-511-06780-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 252 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	African studies series ; ; 96
Disciplina	967.11/004963962
Soggetti	Duala (African people) - History Cameroon History To 1960 Cameroon Economic conditions To 1960
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 235-249) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. From fishermen to middlemen: the Duala inland and on the coast in the formative period, c. 1600-1830 -- 3. Hegemony without control: the Duala, Europeans and the Littoral hinterland in the era of legitimate/free trade, c. 1830-1884 -- 4. Mythic transformation and historical continuity: Duala middlemen and German colonial rule, 1884-1914 -- 5. Middlemen as ethnic elite: the Duala under French mandate rule, 1914-1941 -- 6. Between colonialism and radical nationalism: middlemen in the era of decolonization, c. 1941-c. 1960.
Sommario/riassunto	The Duala people entered the international scene as merchant-brokers for precolonial trade in ivory, slaves and palm products. Under colonial

rule they used the advantages gained from earlier riverain trade to develop cocoa plantations and provide their children with exceptional levels of European education. At the same time they came into early conflict with both German and French regimes and played a leading - if ultimately unsuccessful - role in anti-colonial politics. In tracing these changing economic and political roles, this book also examines the growing consciousness of the Duala as an ethnic group and uses their history to shed light on the history of 'middleman' communities in surrounding regions of West and Central Africa. The authors draw upon a wide range of written and oral sources, including indigenous accounts of the past conflicting with their own findings but illuminate local conceptions of social hierarchy and their relationship to spiritual beliefs.
