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In this closely integrated collection of essays on colonialism in world Sommario/riassunto

history. Frederick Cooper raises crucial questions about concepts relevant to a wide range of issues in the social sciences and humanities, including identity, globalization, and modernity. Rather than portray the past two centuries as the inevitable movement from empire to nation-state. Cooper places nationalism within a much wider range of imperial and diasporic imaginations, of rulers and ruled alike, well into the twentieth century. He addresses both the insights and the blind spots of colonial studies in an effort to get beyond the tendency in the field to focus on a generic colonialism located sometime between 1492 and the 1960's and somewhere in the "West." Broad-ranging, cogently argued, and with a historical focus that moves from Africa to South Asia

to Europe, these essays, most published here for the first time, propose a fuller engagement in the give-and-take of history, not least in the ways in which concepts usually attributed to Western universalism-including citizenship and equality-were defined and reconfigured by political mobilizations in colonial contexts.