

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786159803321
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Titolo	Religion and state in Syria : the Sunni Ulama from coup to revolution // Thomas Pierret, University of Edinburgh [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-139-61076-7 1-139-62564-0 1-139-61262-X 1-139-61634-X 1-139-20772-5
Edizione	[1st English ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 275 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge Middle East studies ; ; 41
Classificazione	POL040020
Disciplina	322/.1095691
Soggetti	Ulama - Political activity - Syria Syria Politics and government 20th century Syria Politics and government 21st century
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. 245-261) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: 1. The era of the 'founding sheikhs' (1920-79); 2. Landscapes after the battle (1979-2007); 3. (Re)defining orthodoxy against reformist trends; 4. The turban and the chequebook: political economy of the Syrian religious elite; 5. Ulama and Islamists in the political field; 6. Reforms and revolution; 7. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	While Syria has been dominated since the 1960s by a determinedly secular regime, the 2011 uprising has raised many questions about the role of Islam in the country's politics. This book demonstrates that with the eradication of the Muslim Brothers after the failed insurrection of 1982, Sunni men of religion became the only voice of the Islamic trend in the country. Through educational programs, charitable foundations and their deft handling of tribal and merchant networks, they took advantage of popular disaffection with secular ideologies to increase their influence over society. In recent years, with the Islamic resurgence, the Alawi-dominated Ba'thist regime was compelled to bring the clergy into the political fold. This relationship was exposed in 2011 by the division of the Sunni clergy between regime supporters,

bystanders and opponents. This book affords a new perspective on Syrian society as it stands at the crossroads of political and social fragmentation.
