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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Pacifiers and Instigators: Bishops in Interreligious Conflicts in Late Antiquity -- Maijastina Kahlos (Finnish Academy, Finland) -- Preaching and Mesmerizing. Christian Rhetorical Delivery and the Resolution of Conflicts -- Alberto Quiroga Puertas (Universidad de Granada, Spain) -- 'Holy Bishops': Strategies of Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution Purificacion -- Ubric Rabaneda (Universidad de Granada, Spain) -- Councils as Political and Ecclesiastical Conflicts in Late Antiquity: the Role of Bishops -- Silvia Acerbi (Universidad de Cantabria, Spain) -- Controversy and Debate over Sexual Matters among Western Churches -- Teresa Sardella (Universita di Catania, Italy) -- The Donatist Conflict as Seen by Constantine and the Bishops -- Jose Fernandez Ubina (Universidad de Granada, Spain) -- Ius et religio: The Conference of Carthage and the End of the Donatist Schism -- Carlos Garcia Mac Gaw (Universidad de La Plata, Argentina) -- Arians and Nicenes in Conflict: Gregory of Nazianzus in Constantinople -- Ramon Teja y Juana Torres (Universidad de Cantabria, Spain) -- Bishops, Judges and Emperors: CTh 16, 2, 31, CTh 16, 5, 46 and Sirm. 14 (409). -- Victoria Escribano Pano (Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain) -- Papal Authority, Local Autonomy and Imperial Control: Pope

Zosimus and the Western Churches -- Mar Marcos (Universidad de Cantabria, Spain) -- East and West, Emperor and Bishop: Hormisdas and the Authority of the See of Rome. -- Alexander Evers (Loyola University Chicago, John Felice Rome Center) -- Bishops, Imperialism, and the Barbaricum -- Andrew Fear (University of Manchester, UK) -- The Bishops and the Byzantine Intervention in Hispania -- Francisco Salvador Ventura (Universidad de Granada, Spain) -- Conflict and Compromise: the Spanish Catholic Bishops and the Arian Kingdom of Toledo (from Vouille to Leovigild) -- Pedro Castillo Maldonado (Universidad de Jaen, Spain) -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Late Antiquity witnessed a major transformation in the authority and power of the Episcopate within the Church, with the result that bishops came to embody the essence of Christianity and increasingly overshadow the leading Christian laity. The rise of Episcopal power came in a period in which drastic political changes produced long and significant conflicts both within and outside the Church. This book examines these problems in depth, looking at bishops' varied roles in both causing and resolving these disputes, including those internal to the church, those which began within the church but had major effects on wider society, and those of a secular nature
