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7. Sinhalese revolutionaries, linguistic nationalism and Buddhism reimaginedIntroduction; Sinhalese nationalist capture; Tamil nationalist response; 8. Cosmology, constitutionalism and the Tamil other; Introduction; Republicanism, Tamil separatism and Sinhalese insurrection; UNP rule, Buddhist righteousness and authoritarianism; 9. Centralization, decentralization and the cosmology of Buddhism; Introduction; The 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan Accord and the beginning of the end; Stumbling towards federalism; Sinhalese Buddhist nationalist resurgence; Towards the apothosis of 1956
10. Conclusion: rethinking community in Sri LankaNotes; Bibliography; Index

Sommario/riassunto

"Focusing on Sri Lanka, this book offers a new perspective on contemporary debates about nationalism in South Asia. It looks at the 'capture' of Buddhism by militant Sinhalese nationalism in the colonial and postcolonial periods, and the framing of subsequent key constitutional legal moments. The book combines the dynamics of constitutionalism with the orbit of historical, political and anthropological scholarship on the cosmology of Sinhalese Buddhism and its relation to Sinhalese Buddhist nationalism. It explores four cases of legal-constitutional moments and offers a unique contribution to the politics and history of devolution in Sri Lanka. The book goes on to examine the way in which Buddhism, and particularly the Asokan state model, may in fact provide the intellectual resources for decentralized government beyond Sri Lanka in other parts of the Theravada Buddhist world, such as Thailand and Burma. Presenting a timely analysis given the intensification of Sri Lanka's civil war since the election in 2005 of President Mahinda Rajapakse on an overtly ultra nationalist Sinhalese Buddhist platform, this book is of interest to scholars of South Asian Studies, anthropology, sociology, ethnicity and political science"--
