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Titolo	Against the grain [[electronic resource]] : a deep history of the earliest states // James C. Scott
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, Connecticut : , : Yale University Press, , 2017
ISBN	0-300-23168-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (336 p.) : 13 b-w illus
Collana	Yale agrarian studies
Disciplina	900
Soggetti	Agriculture - Social aspects Agriculture and state Agriculture - Origin
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 279-300) and index.
Nota di contenuto	A narrative in tatters : what I didn't know -- The domestication of fire, plants, animals, and ... us -- Landscaping the world : the domus complex -- Zoonoses : a perfect epidemiological storm -- Agro-ecology of the early state -- Population control : bondage and war -- Fragility of the early state : collapse as disassembly -- The golden age of the barbarians.
Sommario/riassunto	An account of all the new and surprising evidence now available for the beginnings of the earliest civilizations that contradict the standard narrative. Why did humans abandon hunting and gathering for sedentary communities dependent on livestock and cereal grains, and governed by precursors of today's states? Most people believe that plant and animal domestication allowed humans, finally, to settle down and form agricultural villages, towns, and states, which made possible civilization, law, public order, and a presumably secure way of living. But archaeological and historical evidence challenges this narrative. The first agrarian states, says James C. Scott, were born of accumulations of domestications: first fire, then plants, livestock, subjects of the state, captives, and finally women in the patriarchal family-all of which can be viewed as a way of gaining control over reproduction. Scott explores why we avoided sedentism and plow agriculture, the advantages of mobile subsistence, the unforeseeable disease epidemics arising from crowding plants, animals, and grain, and why all early states are based

on millets and cereal grains and unfree labor. He also discusses the "barbarians" who long evaded state control, as a way of understanding continuing tension between states and nonsubject peoples.
