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Nota di contenuto	African Arguments; About the author; Preface and acknowledgements; Timeline; Abbreviations; Map: Democratic Republic of the Congo; The crocodile and the scorpion: a Congolese parable -- 1 Why state-building is not working in the Congo -- 2 The political economy of broken promises -- 3 A patchwork of unrealistic reforms -- 4 The administrative juggernaut -- 5 Culture matters -- 6 Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Index; About Zed Books.
Sommario/riassunto	In this scathing study of catastrophic aid inefficiency, Trefon evaluates the imported template of reforms pieced together to introduce democracy and improve the wellbeing of the Congolese. He demonstrates that it has been an almost unmitigated failure due to the ingrained political culture of corruption amongst the Congolese elite, abetted by the complicity and incompetence of international partners.