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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : opacity, misrecognition, and other complexities of symbolic communication -- Japanese cherry blossoms : from the beauty of life to the sublimity of sacrificial death -- European roses : from 'bread and roses' to the aestheticization of murderers -- The subversive monkey in Japanese culture : from scapegoat to clown -- Rice and the Japanese collective self : the purity of exclusion -- The collective self and cultural/political nationalisms : cross-cultural perspectives -- The invisible and inaudible Japanese emperor -- (Non-) externalization of religious and political authority and power : a cross-cultural perspective.
Sommario/riassunto	Flowers are beautiful. People often communicate their love, sorrow, and other feelings to each other by offering flowers, like roses. Flowers can also be symbols of collective identity, as cherry blossoms are for the Japanese. But, are they also deceptive? Do people become aware when their meaning changes, perhaps as flowers are deployed by the state and dictators? Did people recognize that the roses they offered to Stalin and Hitler became a propaganda tool? Or were they like the Japanese,

who, including the soldiers, did not realize when the state told them to fall like cherry blossoms, it meant their deaths? *Flowers That Kill* proposes an entirely new theoretical understanding of the role of "idiot symbols and their political significance to understand how they lead people, if indirectly, to wars, violence, and even self-exclusion and self-destruction precisely because symbolic communication is full of ambiguity and opacity. Using a broad comparative approach, Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney illustrates how the aesthetic and multiple meanings of symbols, and at times symbols without images become possible sources for creating opacity which prevents people from recognizing the shifting meaning of the symbols.
