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Nota di contenuto	Empire- and nation-building in Russia and Romania: discourses and practices -- Southern Bessarabia as an imperial borderland: diplomatic and political dilemmas -- Rituals of nation and empire in early 20th century Bessarabia: the anniversary of 1912 and its significance -- Three hypostases of the Bessarabian refugee: hasdeu, stere, moruzi and the uncertainty of identity -- Revolution, war, and the Bessarabian problem: Russian and Romanian perspectives (1905-1916).
Sommario/riassunto	Bessarabiawas mostly occupied by modern-day republic of Moldovawas the only territory representing an object of rivalry and symbolic competition between the Russian Empire and a fully crystallized nation-state: the Kingdom of Romania. This book is an intellectual prehistory

of the Bessarabian problem, focusing on the antagonism of the national and imperial visions of this contested periphery. Through a critical reassessment and revision of the traditional historical narratives, the study argues that Bessarabia was claimed not just by two opposing projects of 'symbolic inclusion,' but also by two alternative and theoretically antagonistic models of political legitimacy. By transcending the national lens of Bessarabian / Moldovan history and viewing it in the broader Eurasian comparative context, the book responds to the growing tendency in recent historiography to focus on the peripheries in order to better understand the functioning of national and imperial states in the modern era.
