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Autore	Agha Saleh Said
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Nota di contenuto	TABLE OF CONTENTS; LIST OF FIGURES; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS; INTRODUCTION: ANTICIPATING THIS WORK; NOTE ON CONVENTION; PART ONE: THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE 'ABBASID CONNECTION'; PART TWO: THE DEMOGRAPHIC BALANCE IN THE REVOLUTIONARY PROVINCE; PART THREE: A COLLECTIVE PROFILE OF THE ORGANIZATION-A QUANTITATIVE STUDY; EPILOGUE; APPENDIX ONE: PROSOPOGRAPHICAL APPENDIX; APPENDIX TWO: SPECIAL APPENDIX: INDEX OF STATISTICAL TABLES IN AGHA, "AGENTS"; GLOSSARY OF TERMS DEFINED; BIBLIOGRAPHY; INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	This book re-examines the so-called bbsid revolution, the ethnic character of whose effective constituency has been contested for over eight decades. It also brings to question the authenticity of the bbsid dynastic claim. To establish its two theses (neither Arab nor bbsid) this book employs, in its three parts, three distinct methodological approaches. To reconstruct the secret history of the clandestine Organization, Part One elicits a narrative through a rigorous application of the historical-critical method. Part Two subjects to close textual analysis some prime-grade literary specimen. In Part Three, a purely quantitative approach is adopted to study the demographic character of

the formal structures of leadership within the Organization. History, historiography, heresiography, literature, the narrative, the textual analysis, and the quantitative approach, cannot be less inseparable.
