1. Record Nr. UNINA9910811909903321

Titolo One Zambia, many histories [[electronic resource]]: towards a history

of post-colonial Zambia / / edited by Jan-Bart Gewald, Maria Hinfelaar,

Giacomo Macola

Pubbl/distr/stampa Leiden;; Boston,: Brill, 2008

ISBN 1-283-06153-8

9786613061539 90-474-3319-X

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (316 p.)

Collana Afrika-Studiecentrum series, , 1570-9310 ; ; v. 12

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Disciplina 968.9404

Soggetti Postcolonialism - Zambia

Zambia History 1964-

Zambia Politics and government 1964-1991
Zambia Politics and government 1991Zambia Economic conditions 1964-

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula, UNIP and the roots of authoritarianism in

nationalist Zambia / Giacomo Macola -- Rebellion or massacre? : the UNIP-Lumpa conflict revisited / David M. Gordon -- 'You can't fight guns with knives' : national security and Zambian responses to UDI, 1965-1973 / Andrew J. DeRoche -- Enemies within? : opposition to the Zambian one-party state, 1972-1980 / Miles Larmer -- Legitimizing powers : the political role of the Roman Catholic church, 1972-1991 / Marja Hinfelaar -- Towards a history of the charismatic churches in post-colonial Zambia / Austin M. Cheyeka -- Islam in post-colonial Zambia / Felix J. Phiri -- 'The devil you know' : the impact of the mulungushi economic reforms on retail trade in rural Zambia, with special reference to Susman Brothers & Wulfsohn, 1968-80 / Hugh Macmillan -- The informalization of Lusaka's economy : regime change, ultra-modern markets, and street vending, 1972-2004 / K.

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In contrast to the rich tradition of academic analysis and understanding of the pre-colonial and colonial history of Zambia, the country's post-colonial trajectory has been all but ignored by historians. The assumptions of developmentalism, the cultural hegemony of the United National Independence Party's orthodoxy and its conflation with national interests, and a narrow focus on Zambia's diplomatic role in Southern African affairs, have all contributed to a dearth of studies centring on the diverse lived experiences of Zambians. Inspired by an international conference held in Lusaka in August 2005, and presenting a broad range of essays on different aspects of Zambia's post-colonial experience, this collection seeks to lay the foundations for a future process of sustained scholarly enquiry into the country's most recent past.