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Nota di contenuto	Title page; Copyright; Contents; Acknowledgements; Introduction; CHAPTER 1 Shiism fragmented: the faith and the faithful from the seventh to the ninth century ; CHAPTER 2 Bereft of a leader: The early traditionists and the beginnings of doctrine and practice ; CHAPTER 3 The challenge of 'the Uncertainty' ; CHAPTER 4 Majority and minority: rationalism on the defensive in the later Buyid period ; CHAPTER 5 Betwixt and between: the Twelvers and the Turks ; CHAPTER 6 The Mongol and Ilkhanid periods: the rise and limits of the school of al-Hilla ; CHAPTER 7 The severest of challenges CHAPTER 8 Shiism in the sixteenth century: the limits of power (and influence) CHAPTER 9 The past rediscovered and the future assured: Shiism in the seventeenth century ; Epilogue; Appendix I Scholars by region: fifth-twelfth Islamic centuries/eleventh-eighteenth centuries ad* ; Appendix II Manuscript copies of key Twelver Shii written works, sixth-thirteenth Islamic centuries/twelfth-nineteenth centuries ad* ; Appendix III Selected Safavid period rijal works* ; Appendix IV Shuruh/Hawashi of key Twelver works, sixth-twelfth Islamic centuries/twelfth-eighteenth centuries ad* ; Bibliography Index
Sommario/riassunto	As many as 40 different Shi`i groups existed in the 9th and 10th

centuries yet only 3 forms have survived. Why is Twelver Shi'ism one of them? As the established faith in modern Iran, the majority faith in Iraq and areas in the Gulf and with its adherents forming sizeable minorities elsewhere in the region, Twelver Shi'ism is arguably the most successful branch of Shi'ism. Andrew J. Newman chronicles the progression of Twelver Shiism, exploring the numerous external challenges and internal disagreements that marked the lives of believers in pockets across the Middle East to the early 18th century. During this time, from the 13th to the 15th century especially, with scholarly activity and the availability of earlier key texts of the faith limited, the region's many millenarian doctrines and movements threatened its demise. Only by the late 17th century was Twelver Shiism's survival assured, both in Iran and elsewhere in the region.
