

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818617503321
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Titolo	Paths toward the nation : Islam, community, and early nationalist mobilization in Eritrea, 1941-1961 // Joseph L. Venosa
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Athens, Ohio : , : Ohio University Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-89680-487-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (305 p.)
Collana	Research in International Studies, Africa Series ; ; Number 92
Disciplina	963.506
Soggetti	Islam and politics - Eritrea Muslims - Political activity - Eritrea Eritrea History 20th century Eritrea History History Autonomy and independence movements Eritrea Politics and government 1941-1952 Eritrea Politics and government 1952-1962
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; Epilogue; Notes; Glossary; Selected Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the early and mid-1940's, during the period of British wartime occupation, community and religious leaders in the former Italian colony of Eritrea engaged in a course of intellectual and political debate that marked the beginnings of a genuine national consciousness across the region. During the late 1940's and 1950's, the scope of these concerns slowly expanded as the nascent nationalist movement brought together Muslim activists with the increasingly disaffected community of Eritrean Christians. The Eritrean Muslim League emerged as the first genuine pro-independence organization in the