

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910821182203321
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Titolo	Christianity, colonization, and gender relations in North Sumatra : a patrilineal society in flux // Sita T. van Bemmelen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden : , : Brill, , [2017] ©2017
ISBN	90-04-34575-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 574 pages) : illustrations, maps
Collana	Verhandelingen van het Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde ; ; v. 309
Disciplina	305.48899224620730922
Soggetti	Toba-Batak (Indonesian people) - History Christianity and culture - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Preface -- Chapter 1: Introduction -- A Historical Ethnography -- The Construction of Toba Batak Gender -- Customary Marriage -- Fertility, Mortality and the Pinnacle of Life -- Ruptures: Divorce and Widowhood -- Negotiations on Marriage Customs (1830–1942) -- The Encroachment on the Batak World (1830–1883) -- Negotiating the Future Social Order (1881–1885) -- Engineering Christian Toba Batak Marriage (1866–1913) -- Shifting Alliances, Revised Strategies (1892–1913) -- The Secular Takeover (1914–1934) -- Administrative Zeal Eroding Customary Marriage (1912–1942) -- Dynamite Disputes: Mirror of Change (1923–1939) -- Matching Partners (1920–1942) -- Conclusion: Toba Batak after All.
Sommario/riassunto	In this book Sita van Bemmelen offers an account of changes in Toba Batak society (Sumatra, Indonesia) due to Christianity and Dutch colonial rule (1861-1942) with a focus on customs and customary law related to the life cycle and gender relations. The first part, a historical ethnography, describes them as they existed at the onset of colonial rule. The second part zooms in on the negotiations between the Toba Batak elite, the missionaries of the German Rhenish Mission and colonial administrators about these customs showing the evolving views on desirable modernity of each contestant. The pillars of the Toba patrilineal kinship system were challenged, but alterations

changed the way it was reproduced and gender relations for ever.
