

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910825743303321
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Titolo	Near Eastern tribal societies during the nineteenth century : economy, society and politics between tent and town // Eveline van der Steen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 2014
ISBN	1-317-54347-5 1-315-72862-1 1-317-54348-3 1-84465-782-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 302 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Approaches to anthropological archaeology
Disciplina	305.800956
Soggetti	Tribes - Middle East Middle East Social conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First published 2013 by Equinox, an imprint of Acumen.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	What is a tribe -- Travellers in the Levant in the nineteenth century -- The dynamics of territorial and power structures -- Oral traditions -- Tribal society and its relation to the landscape -- Tribal institutions -- Relations between the tribes and the state -- From tribe to tribal state: three case studies -- Economy of tribal societies -- Ethnicity and the sense of belonging -- Women in tribal societies -- Religion and folklore -- Back in time: historical parallels.
Sommario/riassunto	Until the First World War, Near Eastern society was tribally organised. In the Levant and the Arabian peninsula, where the Ottoman empire was weak, large and powerful tribes such as the Anaze, Beni Sakhr and Shammar competed for control of the land, the people and the economy. This in-depth study explores the history, archaeology and anthropology of tribal society, economy and politics in the villages, towns and deserts of the Near East in the nineteenth century. Drawing on a wide range of historical accounts from travellers, adventurers and explorers as well as archaeological evidence, the book sheds new light on tribal life and tribal organisation as a driving force in Near Eastern society. While a straight comparison between ancient and more recent tribal communities must be treated with caution, the book shows how a

better understanding of nineteenth-century tribal ethics and customs provides useful insights into the history and power relations of the more distant past and the underlying causes for the present conflicts of the region. The book is an important addition to new research on Bedouin life and culture and will be of interest to historians, archaeologists, anthropologists and scholars of the Near East.

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