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Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material -- Introduction -- 1 Clerical Communities in West African History -- 2 A New Senegambian Clerical Community -- 3 Honored Disciples: The Cissé of the Saloum -- 4 Knowing God -- 5 Understanding Sufi Discipleship -- 6 The Adaptation of Traditional Learning Practices -- 7 Cognizance and the Revival of the Islamic Sciences -- 8 Islam and African Decolonization: Community Solidarities and Distinctions -- Conclusion -- Bibliography and Sources -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Living Knowledge in West African Islam examines the actualization of religious identity in the community of Ibrhm Niasse (d.1975, Senegal). With millions of followers throughout Africa and the world, the community arguably represents one of the twentieth century's most successful Islamic revivals. Niasse's followers, members of the Tijniyya Sufi order, gave particular attention to the widespread transmission of the experiential knowledge (marifa) of God. They also worked to articulate a global Islamic identity in the crucible of African decolonization. The central argument of this book is that West African Sufism is legible only with an appreciation of centuries of Islamic knowledge specialization in the region. Sufi masters and disciples reenacted and deepened preexisting teacher-student relationships surrounding the learning of core Islamic disciplines, such as the Qurn and jurisprudence. Learning Islam meant the transformative inscription of sacred knowledge in the student's very being, a disposition acquired

in the master's exemplary physical presence. Sufism did not undermine traditional Islamic orthodoxy: the continued transmission of Sufi knowledge has in fact preserved and revived traditional Islamic learning in West Africa.

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