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Nota di contenuto	chapter 1 Introduction / Jae-Eun Shin -- chapter 2 Grouping of Multiple Feminine Divinities / Jae-Eun Shin -- chapter 3 Making of the Mahavidyas in the Sakta Upapuranas and Tantras in Eastern India / Jae-Eun Shin -- chapter 4 Locating of the Mahavidyas in the Sacred Landscape / Jae-Eun Shin -- chapter 5 Conclusion / Jae-Eun Shin.
Sommario/riassunto	The Mahavidyas are the representative Tantric feminine pantheon consisting of ten goddesses. It is formed by divergent religious strands and elements: the m?tt? and yogin? worship, the cult of K?!? and Tripurasundar?, Vajray?na Buddhism, Jain Vidy?dev?s, ?aiva and Vai??ava faith, ?r?vidy?, the Brahmanical strand of Puranic traditions, et cetera This volume is the first attempt to explore the historical process, through which these traditions culminated in the Mahavidy? cult and the goddesses with different origins and contradictory attributes were brought into a cluster, with special reference to socio-political changes in the lower Ga?g? and Brahmaputra Valley between the 9th and 15th centuries CE. Based on a close analysis of Pur??as, Tantras and inscriptional evidence, and on extensive field research on archaeological remains as well as sacred sites, Jae-Eun Shin discusses the two trajectories of the Mahavidy?s in eastern ??kta traditions. Each led to the systematization of Da?amah?vidy?s in a specific way: one, as ten manifestations of Durg? upholding dharma in the cosmic dimension, and the other, as ten mandalic goddesses bearing magical

powers in the actual sacred site. Their attributes and characteristics have neither been static nor monolithic, and the mode of worship prescribed for them has changed in a dialectical religious process between Brahmanical and Tantric traditions of the region. This is the definitive work for anyone seeking to understand goddess cults of South Asia in general and the history of eastern ??kta traditions in particular. To aid study, the volume includes images, diagrams and maps.
