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Autore	Wood Andy
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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: 'Terms we did not understand': landscape, place and perceptions -- 1. Social relations and popular culture in early modern England -- pt. I. The structures of inequality -- 2. Economy and society in the Peak Country, c. 1520-1570 -- 3. Industrialization and social change, c. 1570-1660 -- 4. The Peak Country as an industrial region, c. 1660-1770 -- 5. Social conflict and early capitalism -- pt. II. The conditions of community -- 6. 'The memory of the people': custom, law and popular culture -- 7. The politics of custom -- 8. Community, identity and culture -- pt. III. The politics of social conflict -- 9. 'Pyllage upon the poore mynorz': sources of social conflict, 1500-1600 -- 10. 'All is hurly burly here': local histories of social conflict, 1600-1640 -- 11. The Peak in context: riot and popular politics in early Stuart England -- 12. 'Prerogative hath many proctors': the English Revolution and the plebeian politics of the Peak, 1640-1660 -- 13. The experience of defeat? The defence of custom, 1660-1770 -- 14. The making of the English working class in the Derbyshire Peak Country.

Sommario/riassunto

This book provides an alternative approach to the history of social conflict, popular politics and plebeian culture in the early modern period. Based on a close study of the Peak Country of Derbyshire c. 1520-1770, it has implications for understandings of class identity, popular culture, riot, custom and social relations. A detailed reconstruction of economic and social change within the region is followed by an in-depth examination of the changing cultural meanings of custom, gender, locality, skill, literacy, orality and magic. The local history of social conflict sheds light upon the nature of political engagement and the origins of early capitalism. Important insights are offered into early modern social and gender identities, civil war allegiances, the appeal of radical ideas and the making of the English working class. Above all, the book challenges the claim that early modern England was a hierarchical, 'pre-class' society.
