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6 Irrigation agriculture in Central Asia: a long-term perspective from Turkmenistan; Part III SAHARA AND SAHEL; 7 Conquests and land degradation in the eastern Maghreb during classical antiquity and the Middle Ages; 8 Success, longevity and failure of arid-land agriculture: Romano-Libyan floodwater farming in the Tripolitanian pre-desert; 9 Twelve thousand years of human adaptation in Fezzan (Libyan Sahara); 10 Farming and famine: subsistence strategies in Highland Ethiopia; Part IV EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA; 11 Engaruka: farming by irrigation in Maasailand c.AD 1400-1700
12 The agricultural landscape of the Nyanga area of Zimbabwe; 13 Fifteenth-century agropastoral responses to a disequilibrium ecosystem in southeastern Botswana; 14 Islands of intensive agriculture in African drylands: towards an explanatory framework; Part V NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA; 15 Prehistoric agriculture and anthropogenic ecology of the North American Southwest; 16 The role of maguey in the Mesoamerican tierra fria: ethnographic, historic and archaeological perspectives; Part VI EUROPE; 17 Traditional irrigation systems in dryland Switzerland; 18 Desertification, land degradation and land abandonment in the Rhone valley, France; Index

Sommario/riassunto

Many dryland regions contain archaeological remains which suggest that there must have been intensive phases of settlement in what now seem to be dry and degraded environments. This book discusses successes and failures of past land use and settlement in drylands, and contributes to wider debates about desertification and the sustainability of dryland settlement.
