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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Preface -- Figures and Tables -- Introduction -- The Problem of the Pre-Shinto Cults -- Territorial Cults -- The Focus on Early Japan -- Japan's Protohistory -- Innovations Introduced by the Taika Reform -- Different Versions of the Same Story in Nihon Shoki -- The God Age Mythology -- The Fudoki Mythology -- The Method of Interpretation -- The Theoretical Model -- The Structure of the Book -- Romanisation -- Quoting from Ancient Texts -- Chapter 1 Divination, the Crucial Rite -- Divining with Things Thrown and Falling Down -- Divining the Place for Founding a Shrine -- Absurd Uses of the Falling Motif -- Realistic Methods Exaggerated -- Land Divination Typically Performed in Front -- Divining with Things Cast Overboard -- Floating a Wisteria Twig to Find the Right Place -- Letting a Cooking Set Float to Enemy Land -- Susanoo and the Floating Chopsticks -- Kisakahime and the Lost Bow and Arrow -- Articles to Play on the Sea -- Floats Used for Divining -- Divining in Boats -- The Religious Use of Wood Drifted Ashore -- Conclusion -- Chapter 2 The Story of Yato no Kami -- The Topography -- The Mountain Entrance -- The Lacking First Part of the Story -- The Yashiro at the Upper Boundary -- Matachi's Ritual

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The Guardian Deity Is Believed to Control the Local Weather -- Calamities Blamed on Some Mistake in the Ritual -- Cult Places Could Be Moved to Enlarge the Agricultural Land -- The Mountain God as a Multifunctional Deity -- The Mountain Entrance and the Torii -- Boundary Marks -- Tabooed Mountain Areas -- The Bipolar Structure of Territories -- The Chigi Cross as a Symbol -- The Name of the Kami Land -- The Age of the Yorishiro Concept -- The Land-Making Motif in Creation Myths -- Conclusion -- Chapter 9 Sacred Groves and Cult Marks -- Yashikigami Worship -- A Sacred Grove on Hirado Island -- The Gar Yama of Tanegashima -- The Sacred Forest of the miwa Shrine -- The Matsushita Shrine and the Somin Sanctuary -- Cult Marks Replaced by Shrine Buildings -- Yorishiro and Ogishiro -- The Shimenawa and the Straw Snake -- Claiming Signs Made by Binding or Knotting Growing Plants -- Pacifying the Site -- Ancient Land-Claiming and the Rural Gathering Economy -- Sign-Making Dealt with in Ethnographic Studies -- Chapter 10 Comparative Notes -- The Settlement of Iceland -- Founding Sacred Groves and Colonies in Ancient Greece -- The Vedic Tradition -- Opening Up Land in Shifting Cultivation -- From Terrestrial Heavens to the Heaven in the Sky -- Bibliography -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

The first book that deals with the territorial cults of early Japan by focusing on how such cults were founded in ownerless regions. Numerous ancient Japanese myths and legends are discussed to show that the typical founding ritual was a two-phase ritual that turned the territory into a horizontal microcosm, complete with its own 'terrestrial heaven' inhabited by local deities. Reversing Mircea Eliade's popular thesis, the author concludes that the concept of the human-made horizontal microcosm is not a reflection but the source of the religious concept of the macrocosm with gods dwelling high up in the sky. The open access publication of this book has been published with the support of the Swiss National Science Foundation.
