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Altri autori (Persone)	PollockSusan EberhardtGisela
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the Kura-Araxes Cultural Tradition in Iran -- Sepideh Maziar -- Reaching the Breaking Point? Developments in the Chalcolithic to Early Bronze Age Varamin Plain -- Susan Pollock, Morteza Hessari, Reinhard Bernbeck -- The Bronze and Iron Age of Mazandaran (3200-1000BCE): Resilience and Cultural Adaptability -- Hassan Fazeli Nashli, Mojtaba Safari, Yunshi Huang, Zhenhua Deng, Hadi Davoudi, Xiaohong Wu -- The Environmental Limitations for the Pastoral-Nomadic Way of Life in the Karadagh Highlands of Northwestern Iran: Evidence from the Iron Age I-II and Modern Times -- Bahram Ajorloo -- POLITICAL AND -- ECONOMIC -- INSTITUTIONS. Second-Year Cows for Manlari. Elamite State Investment in Cattle Husbandry in the Southern Zagros Mountains -- Azam Rayat and Walther Sallaberger -- Coping with Problems of Mining: Approaching Resilience Strategies through the Study of Resource-Scapes in the Iranian Highlands -- Thomas Stöllner -- Imperial Control and Highland Resilience in the Parthian Zagros -- Michael Brown and Shelir Amelirad -- Resilience in Centralized State Systems. The Persepolis Fortification Archive and Achaemenid Institutional Longevity -- Wouter F. M. Henkelman, Kai Kaniuth, Kourosh Mohammadkhani -- Prestigious Building and Urban Development in Ilkhanid Iran: The Rab-i Rashidi in Tabriz as an Example of Resilience and Vulnerability in a Long-Term Perspective -- Birgitt Hoffmann, Lorenz Korn, Thomas Lorain, Jonas Elbers, Maryam Moeini -- Dynamics of Development and Resilience in Western Fars: The Bozpar Valley -- Stefan R. Hauser, Giuseppe Labisi, Elnaz Rashidian -- Blank Page -- Blank Page.

Sommario/riassunto

The collection of essays in this book focuses on the highlands of Iran in pre-modern times, reaching from the Paleolithic to the medieval period. What holds the diverse contributions together is an issue that is closely related to debates in our own times: crises and how societies in the past dealt with them. We start from the premise that general circumstances in the fractured topographic structure of the Iranian highlands led to unique relations between ecological, social, economic and political conditions. In three sections entitled "Climate and palaeoenvironment", "Settlement, subsistence and mobility" and "Political and economic institutions", the authors ask what sorts of crises afflicted past societies in the Iranian highlands, to what extent they proved resilient, and especially what strategies they developed for enhancing the resilience of their ways of life. Looking for answers in paleoenvironmental proxy data, archaeological findings and written sources, the authors examine subsistence economies, political institutions, religious beliefs, everyday routines and economic specialization in different temporal, spatial and organizational scales. This book is the first volume of a series published by the German-Iranian research cooperation _"The Iranian Highlands: Resiliences and Integration in Premodern Societies"_. The goal of the research project is to shine a new light on communities and societies that populated the Iranian highlands and their more or less successful strategies to cope with the many vagaries, the constant changes and risks of their natural and humanly shaped environments.
