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Sommario/riassunto	This volume advances extant reflections on the state constituted as the Ur-Power in society, particularly in Africa. It analyzes how various agents within the Nigerian society 'encounter' the state - ranging from the most routine form of contact to the spectacular. While many recent collections have reheated the old paradigms - of the perils of

federalism; corruption; ethnicity etc, our focus here is on encounter , that is, the nuance and complexity of how the state shapes society and vice-versa. Through this, we depart from the standard state versus society approach that proves so limiting in explaining the African political landscape.
