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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Aspects of Social Identity in Hadhramawt and Abroad -- Identity in Hadhrami Society -- Hadhrami Emigration and the Mahjar -- The Ordering of Life in Town and Country -- Urban and Rural Life in the Interior -- Urban and Rural Life on the Coast and Its Hinterland -- Social Institutions and the Emergence of Social Criticism -- Rites of Passage, Ceremonies, and Social Critique -- Religious Belief, Practice, and Education: Tradition, Revival, and Critique -- Politics, Power, and Conflict -- The Two Sultanates: Rivals from Inception to Union (1880s to 1918) -- The Sultanates: Challengers and Reformers (1918 to 1936) -- Conclusion -- Rulers of Hadhramawt, Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries -- Qu'ayti-Kathiri Agreement of 1918 (the Aden Agreement) -- Notes -- Selected Bibliography -- Selected Bibliography -- Index

Offering a new perspective on a little-studied society, *On the Edge of Empire* examines the gradual incorporation of the Qu`ayti and Kathiri sultanates of Hadhramawt in the southern Arabian Peninsula into the British Empire during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Boxberger shows how changes in political and social institutions fostered contestation at all levels, from rivalries over territory and political power, to heated debates over religious and educational reform, to efforts to regulate wedding customs and women's dress. Based on extensive fieldwork, this ethnographic and historical narrative draws upon a wide variety of sources, including British documents and accounts; local documents, manuscripts and rare printed materials; extensive interviews with Hadhrami elders from all walks of life; and proverbs, poetry, and tribal lore. Clearly written and richly textured, this book is a welcome contribution to the study of Yemen, the historical ethnography of the Middle East, and the literature on the Islamic societies of the Indian Ocean littoral.
