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Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction : rethinking women and politics in early modern England / James Daybell -- 2. Sisterhood, friendship and the power of English aristocratic women, 1450-1550 / Barbara J. Harris -- 3. A rhetoric of requests : genre and linguistic scripts in Elizabethan women's suitors' letters / Lynne Magnusson -- 4. Politics in the Elizabethan privy chamber : Lady Mary Sidney and Kat Ashley / Natalie Mears -- 5. Portingale women and politics in late Elizabethan London / Alan Stewart -- 6. Negotiating favour : the letters of Lady Raleigh / Karen Robertson -- 7. 'Suche newes as on the Quenes hye wayes we have mett' : the news and intelligence networks of Elizabeth Talbot, countess of Shrewsbury (c. 1527-1608) / James Daybell -- 8. Esther Inglis and the English succession crisis of 1599 / Tricia Bracher -- 9. The Cavendish-Talbot women : playing a high-stakes game / Sara Jayne Steen -- 10. Aristocratic women, power, patronage and family networks at the Jacobean court, 1603-1625 / Helen Payne -- 11. Anne of Denmark and the historical contextualisation of Shakespeare and Fletcher's Henry VIII / Susan Frye -- 12. Mothers, lovers and others :

royalist women / Jerome de Groot -- 13. Beyond microhistory : the use of women's manuscripts in a widening political arena / Elizabeth Clarke -- 14. Loyal and dutiful subjects : English nuns and Stuart politics / Claire Walker -- 15. Assuming gentility : Thomas Middleton, Mary Carleton and Aphra Behn / Valerie Wayne.

Sommario/riassunto

This collection of essays examines women's involvement in politics in early modern England, as writers, as members of kinship and patronage networks, and as petitioners, intermediaries and patrons. It challenges conventional conceptualizations of female power and influence, defining 'politics' broadly in order to incorporate women excluded from formal, male-dominated state institutions. The chapters embrace a range of interdisciplinary approaches: historical, literary, palaeographic, linguistic and gender based. They deal with a variety of issues related to female intervention within political spheres, including women's rhetorical, persuasive and communicative skills; the production by women of a range of texts that can be termed 'political'; the politicization of marital, family and kinship networks; and female involvement in patronage and court politics. It also looks at ways in which images of female power and authority were represented in canonical texts, such as Shakespeare's plays and Milton's epic poetry.
