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Sommario/riassunto	This book is about business in Kenya. Starting from theories of institutions as formal and informal rules that shape human behaviour, it examines the institutional context for business and the ways in which firms and other organisations are formed, operate, and interact. Some

of the institutions are internal to Kenya, but others are regional, continental or global in their origins and impact. The book examines how these institutions interact to create incentives for certain types of investment, and disincentives for others. It also discusses the strategies that government can adopt to strengthen the Kenyan business system and make it more competitive. The book originated in a three-year research project on Business Systems in Africa carried out as part of a collaboration between the Institute for Development Studies of the University of Nairobi, and the Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen. The studies involved more than a dozen researchers in an examination of the influence of political, economic and social institutions on Kenyan firms of all sizes. Its approach, which uses sectors of the economy as lenses through which to view the business system, has provided a rich tapestry of information useful for policymakers, students and scholars. The editors are based at the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi. Dorothy McCormick is Associate Research Professor and Director of the Institute. She specialises in industrial development with particular emphasis on micro and small enterprises. Patrick O. Alila is Research Professor and was the Institute's Director from 1995 to 2001. Trained in political science and development administration, he specialises in rural development and local level institutions. Mary Omosa is Senior Research Fellow and University of Nairobi UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair. Her major research focus is on development sociology and rural livelihoods.

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