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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- contents -- Abbreviations -- Note on Transliteration -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Origin Myths of the Factions -- Bilateral Factionalism in Ottoman Egypt -- Bir Varms, Bir Yokmus -- Sa`d and Haram -- The Yemeni Connection to Egypt's Factions -- Red and White -- The Knob and the Disk—The Factions' Standards -- Selim and Sudun in the Origin Myths -- The Mulberry Tree in the Origin Myths -- The Competitive Feasts of Qasim and Dhu'l-Faqar Beys -- Qasimi Genesis? -- Faqari Genesis? -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Winner of the 2003 Ohio Academy of History Outstanding Publication AwardThis revisionist study reevaluates the origins and foundation myths of the Faqaris and Qasimis, two rival factions that divided Egyptian society during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when Egypt was the largest province in the Ottoman Empire. In answer

to the enduring mystery surrounding the factions' origins, Jane Hathaway places their emergence within the generalized crisis that the Ottoman Empire—like much of the rest of the world—suffered during the early modern period, while uncovering a symbiosis between Ottoman Egypt and Yemen that was critical to their formation. In addition, she scrutinizes the factions' foundation myths, deconstructing their tropes and symbols to reveal their connections to much older popular narratives. Drawing on parallels from a wide array of cultures, she demonstrates with striking originality how rituals such as storytelling and public processions, as well as identifying colors and emblems, could serve to reinforce factional identity.
