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Nota di contenuto

Archaeological sources. Section introduction: Archaeology and history / James Denbow -- Trouble with siblings: archaeological and historical interpretation of the West African past / Christopher R. DeCorse, Gerard L. Chouin -- Material culture and Cadastral data: documenting the Cedarberg frontier, South Africa, 1725-1740 / Laura J. Mitchell -- Chronology, material culture, and pathways to the cultural history of Yoruba-Edo region, 500 B.C.-A.D. 1800 / Akinwumi Ogundiran -- For trinkets such as beads: a revalorization of Khoisan labor in colonial Southern Africa / Edwin N. Wilmsen -- Africa and the Atlantic world. Section introduction: Methodology through the ethnic lens: the study of Atlantic Africa / Paul E. Lovejoy -- Pathways to African ethnicity in the Americas: African national associations in Cuba during slavery / Matt D. Childs -- Slave trade nomenclature and African ethnicities in the Americas: evidence from early eighteenth-century Costa Rica / Russell Lohse -- Africa in Louisiana: in search of "Bambara" and Creole identities in literary and statistical sources / Kevin Roberts -- Documentary sources. Section introduction: New approaches to documentary sources / Thomas Spear -- They called themselves Iloikop: rethinking pastoralist history in nineteenth-century East Africa / Christian Jennings -- Interpreting cases, disentangling disputes: court cases as a source for understanding patron-client relationships in early colonial Lagos / Kristin Mann -- Capricious tyrants and persecuted subjects: reading between the lines of missionary records in precolonial Northern Namibia / Meredith McKittrick -- Oral tradition. Section introduction: Oral tradition: classic questions, new answers / Dennis D. Cordell -- Narratives on pilgrimages to Mecca: beauty versus history in Mande oral tradition / Jan Jansen -- Kingship and the mediators of the past: oral tradition and ritual performance in Nupeland, Nigeria / Constanze Weise -- Passages in a struggle over the past: stories of Maji Maji in Njombe, Tanzania / James Giblin -- Maisha: life history and the history of livelihood along the TAZARA railway in Tanzania / Jamie Monson -- Innovative sources and methods. Section Introduction: Innovative sources and methods / David Henige -- Ben and Maggie: consuming data: reassessing scientific and anthropological evidence: historical perspective on nutrition studies / Cynthia Brantley -- Electricity networks in Africa: a comparative study, or how to write social history from economic sources / Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch -- "Rain or shine we gonna' rock": dance subcultures and identity construction in Accra, Ghana / Steven J. Salm -- Sample surveys: underexploited sources for African social history / Dennis D. Cordell.

Sommario/riassunto

Spurred in part by the ongoing re-evaluation of sources and methods in research, African historiography in the past two decades has been characterized by the continued branching and increasing sophistication of methodologies and areas of specialization. The rate of incorporation of new sources and methods into African historical research shows no signs of slowing.
 This book is both a snapshot of current academic practice and an attempt to sort through some of the problems scholars face within this unfolding web of sources and methods. The book is divided into five sections, each of which begins with a short introduction by a distinguished Africanist scholar. The first section deals with archaeological contributions to historical research. The second section examines the methodologies involved in deciphering historically accurate African ethnic identities from the records of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. The third section mines old documentary sources for new historical perspectives. The fourth section deals with the method most often associated with African historians, that of drawing historical data from oral tradition. The fifth section is devoted to essays that present innovative sources and

methods for African historical research.

 Together, the essays in this cutting-edge volume represent the current state of the art in African historical research.

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