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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Was Athens a state or a stateless community? : the political context of Athenian law -- Feuding or the rule of law? : an essay in legal sociology -- The judicial oath -- What are Athenian laws about? : substance and procedure in Athenian statutes -- Open texture in Athenian law : the approach of the litigants -- Open texture in Athenian law : the response of the courts -- The Athenian courts attempt to achieve consistency? : the use of precedents in forensic oratory -- How strictly did the Athenian courts apply the law? : the role of epieikeia -- The breakdown of the rule of law -- Cleon and the defeat of Athens.
Sommario/riassunto	The author aims to show how the Athenians attempted to put the ideal of the rule of law into action and to understand the nature of litigation in its democratic context. Recent books about the Athenian courts have focused mainly on Athenian social values, but they have paid less attention to the political ideal of the rule of law and to the procedures the Athenians followed to implement this ideal. This study moves beyond the study of rhetoric and ideology to examine how the law worked in action, both in the community as a whole and in the courts.