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Autore	Tor D. G.
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Nota di contenuto	Defining the ayyars -- The volunteer warriors for the faith (mutatawwia) -- Ayyar activity in Sistan and the rise of the Saffarids -- The ayyar versus the government : the Saffarids and the Tahirids -- The ayyar and the Caliph -- The beginning of the ayyar-Sufi connection, and the decline and fall of the ayyar realm -- The ayyars, Sufism, and chivalry -- The ayyars in the tenth and eleventh centuries : chivalry (futuwwa) and violence.
Sommario/riassunto	The present volume contains contributions from Classical Studies which aim at a retrospective interpretation of ceremonies to secure power in the regions of Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Egypt and the Levant. The activities in which all wielders of military power in medieval societies, both Islamic and Christian, habitually engaged are so alien to the modern society that there is a tendency to attribute such behaviour to lawless aggression rather than to what were considered to have been respectable actions by elite members of society. The revised understanding of the social role and position of the ayyars laid forth here will enable us to better recognize and contextualize manifestations of that native Muslim military and political initiative.