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Nota di contenuto	Acknowledgements -- Contents -- Introduction -- God, Satan, and Humankind: Liberation from and Dependency on Supernatural Forces -- Freedom and Dependency in Ancient Israel and the Ancient Near East -- The Semantics of Dependency in the Book of Isaiah and Beyond -- 'I Abjure Satan, his Pomp, and his Service': Exchanging Religious Dependencies in the Early Church -- Interactions between Religion and Politics -- Can the Subaltern . . . Write? Rediscovering the "He"-tribe from Serabit el Khadim and the Invention of Alphabetic Writing 4000 years ago -- Creating Dependency by Means of its Overcoming: A Case Study from the Rise of Tibetan Buddhism -- 'There is a Great Difference between Christianity and Religion at the South': References to Religion in Harriet Jacobs's Slave Narrative Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (1861) -- Relics as Resource: Dependency from Holy Remains -- Vraaiva and Jaina Rivalries in Medieval South India: Creating and Overcoming Structures of Dependency -- Religion and Gender Dependency -- Sisters and Equals? Slavery and Hierarchies in Early Monastic Communities for Women -- Beyond Subordination versus Emancipation: Caribbean Godna (Tattoos) as Means of Recreating Social Relations and Affective Bonds -- Religion and the Dialectic of Overcoming and Creating Dependency -- Serving God: Structures of Dependency in the Ecclesiastical Realm -- The Impact of Faith:

Bartolomé de Las Casas' Cultural Turn in his Interpretation of Aristotle as a Resource for Overcoming Slavery in the West Indies -- Dominium in se ipsum in Antique and Medieval Discourses on Liberty -- William Wilberforce and the Ambiguities of Christian Antislavery -- Index of Names

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## Sommario/riassunto

This book explores the interplay between religion and structures of dependency, focusing on how religious institutions and beliefs have both fostered and challenged systems of coercion and hierarchy throughout history. Drawing from a lecture series organized by the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) and the Center for Religion and Society (ZERG) at the University of Bonn, the volume examines 'asymmetrical dependencies'—social, legal, economic, and spiritual relationships where one party exerts control over another. Contributions analyze diverse contexts, including ancient Israel, Tibetan Buddhism, early Christianity, and colonialism, to illustrate how religion has shaped human interactions and power dynamics. The book is intended for scholars and students of religious studies, history, sociology, and cultural studies, offering insights into the complex role of religion in both perpetuating and mitigating oppression.

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