"It is well known that Charles Tilly left scholars of big structures, large processes, and huge comparisons a tall research agenda. It is less acknowledged that he also left political ethnographers an impressive and provocative set of tools. In the skilled hands of the contributors to this insightful volume, the 'Tilly toolbox' is put to good work in the service of a theory-driven and empirically-grounded exploration of Mediterranean contentious landscapes." * Javier Auyero, University of Texas, Austin;
Editor, Qualitative Sociology "Contested Mediterranean Spaces rescues a cultural geography from the essentialist circularities to which it was once often reduced. These authors examine how circum-Mediterranean identities, at every level from the clan to the nation-state, exhibit the complex impact of ideological and political manipulation. They show how this hothouse of Europe's self-ascribed cultural origins has been characteristically prey to spatial cleansing, gentrification, and bigotry; they also document a regional activism that seeks more tolerant and environmentally benign futures. By problematizing the political and intellectual manipulations as well as the ideological tensions that inform such revivals of the Mediterranean as category and concept, they persuasively refurbish a tired regionalism with refreshing critical and comparative interest.” *Michael Herzfeld, Harvard University; Author of Evicted from Eternity: The Restructuring of Rome
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