Mozambique has echoed developments in other sub-Saharan countries by recently 'recognizing' its traditional authorities and extending their powers. Some celebrate this as 'legal pluralism' and what Boaventura de Sousa Santos calls a 'heterogeneous state'. I question such assessments on the basis of case material collected in Chimoio, Mozambique, from 2007 to 2008. The two cases presented here explore the 2008 spate of the burning of alleged thieves and an individual's search for protection in a poor neighborhood. Overall, the article aims to suggest a reformulation of some political and legal anthropology developed in the context of Africa and, especially, to avoid some of the universalizing typologies and individuating features of such anthropology.
sovereignty in an environment of multiple sovereigns. This was an environment, which required law and legal skills and therefore provided a framework within which reasoned legal elaboration would provide a mechanism to coordinate sovereign relations and thereby provide international restraints on sovereign absolutism. The Article then considers a significant 17th century juridical event in the practice of international law. Levels of complexity. Sovereignty, as understood in terms of governing competence, is tied to the prescription, application, and enforcement of law. This really requires clarification from a very different branch of inquiry: law. State policing and invisible forces in Mozambique. Helene Maria Kyed *Africa* / Volume 84 / Issue 03 / August 2014, pp 424 - 443 DOI: 10.1017/S0001972014000345, Published online: 23 July 2014 Link to this article: http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0001972014000345 How to cite this article: Helene Maria Kyed (2014). Legal anthropological studies have used the concept of hybridity for a long time, but have focused on courts and dispute resolution, not on police and policing. Some of the police officers I knew recalled that they feared those areas because of the 'strong spirits' there, since Renamo was known to work with healers.