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Sommario/riassunto	Detailed description of the lifestyle of groups of high Chilean society in the late 19th and early 20th century, and its social and political role. The theoretical contribution of this book is to show through the analytical practice that the study of class consciousness requires taking culture as a historical object. There is an almost implicit postulate in the work: it is important but not sufficient to situate a class in relation to the economic structure. Of course, it is required to know the material conditioning, the type of social relations of production of which a certain class is agent; and for that reason in this book the description of the economic functions of the oligarchy is central. But between the economic situation of class and consciousness there is a specific field of mediations, which is culture. That culture is more than language, discourse, theory or ideas; she is a type of practice that is apprehended through the concept of way of being (from the Prologue of Tomás Moulian).