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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 155-167) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The origins of "society" -- Society and the individual : neoliberalism, social constructionism and communitarianism -- Postmodernism -- Globalization -- Modernity and society -- Towards a synthesis? : theory and metatheory -- Society lite? : theories of civil society -- Is there a European society?
Sommario/riassunto	Going to the heart of contemporary social and political debate, William Outhwaite questions whether society is relevant in the 21st century, or whether it is now obsolete. He concludes that we still need a concept of society in order to make sense of the forces which structure our lives.