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Sommario/riassunto	<p>Long description: John Searle's social ontology seeks for nothing less than the fundamental structure of human civilization. By trying to reconcile the description of the world by the natural sciences with our self-understanding as free, rational and conscious beings, he points to the core of meaningful social life with its institutions, rules and normative expectations. Searle's often provocative project of explaining the exact role of language in the creation, constitution, and maintenance of social reality manifested in his book Making the Social World (2010) and outlined in this volume, is taken on by philosophers and social scientists in a critical encounter. Among the large range of topics discussed in these articles are Searle's concept of collective intentionality, the status of social facts, the social acceptance of institutions, the magic of speech acts as well as Searle's excursion into the world of power and human rights. Not least, these reflections help to clarify the sometimes conflict-laden relation of philosophy and social theory.</p>