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Sommario/riassunto	'Damn Great Empires!' provides a new perspective on the works of William James by placing his encounter with American imperialism at the centre of his philosophical vision. This book reconstructs his overlooked political thought by treating James's anti-imperialist Nachlass - his speeches, essays, notes, and correspondence on the United States' annexation of the Philippines - as the key to the political significance of his celebrated writings on psychology, religion, and philosophy. It shows how James located a craving for authority at the heart of empire as a way of life, a craving he diagnosed and unsettled through his insistence on a modern world without ultimate foundations.