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Sommario/riassunto	Originally published in 1963, The Fall of the Dynasties covers the period from 1905 to 1922, when the four ruling houses--the Habsburg, Hohenzollern, Ottoman, and Romanov--crumbled and fell, destroying old alliances and obliterating old boundaries. World War I was precipitated by their decay and their splintered baroque rubble proved to be a treacherous base for the new nations that emerged from the war. "All convulsions of the last half-century," Taylor writes, "stem back to Sarajevo: the two World Wars, the Bolshevik revolution, the rise and fall of Hitler, and the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East. Millions upon millions of deaths can be traced to one or another of these upheavals; all of us who survive have been scarred at least emotionally by them."In this classic volume, Taylor traces the origins of the dynasties whose collapse brought the old order crashing down and the events leading to their astonishingly swift downfall.Includes numerous maps and genealogical charts."Popular history of the finest sort...an excellent book worthy to rank with Barbara Tuchman's The Guns of August and Alan Moorehead's Gallipoli."--The New York Times

