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Autore	Geisst Charles R.
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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- A populist issue -- A venerable practice -- The states attack -- The Crash as a credit event -- The Great Depression -- Postscript.
Sommario/riassunto	Predatory lending: A problem rooted in the past that continues today. Looking for an investment return that could exceed 500 percent annually; maybe even twice that much? Private, unregulated lending to high-risk borrowers is the answer, or at least it was in the United States for much of the period from the Civil War to the onset of the early decades of the twentieth century. Newspapers called the practice "loan sharking" because lenders employed the same ruthlessness as the great predators in the ocean. Slowly state and federal governments adopted laws and regulations curtailing the practice.