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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- LIST OF TABLES AND APPENDICES -- LIST OF FIGURES -- CONTRIBUTORS -- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / Nesadurai, Helen E. S. / Djiwandono, J. Soedradjad -- ABBREVIATIONS -- 1. Introduction: Southeast Asia in the Global Economy / Nesadurai, Helen E. S. / Djiwandono, J. Soedradjad -- PART 1: SOUTHEAST ASIA/ASEAN AND THE ASIAN "GIANTS" -- 2. ASEAN and India: Exploring Complementarities / Sen, Rahul / Srivastava, Sadhana -- 3. ASEAN and China: Managing Competition and Exploring Complementarities / Yunhua, Liu -- PART 2: SECURING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS -- 4. Bilateral Economic Arrangements in the Asia-Pacific: Implications for Competitiveness / Dieter, Heribert -- 5. Technological Intensities and Network Strength: Electronics Firms in East Asia and Southeast Asia Compared / Rasiah, Rajah -- 6. Managing Labour for Competitiveness in Southeast Asia / Beng, Chew Soon / Chew, Rosalind -- PART 3: COMPETITIVENESS AND THE SOCIAL DIMENSION -- 7. Labour Regulations in Southeast Asia: Boon or Bane for Competitiveness? / Guina, Carolina S. -- 8. Social Security Policy in an Era of Globalization: Challenges for Southeast Asia / Asher, Mukul G. / Nandy, Amarendu --

Sommario/riassunto

While economic globalization benefited Southeast Asia, especially during the 1990s boom, the region now seems to be caught between two emerging economic giants - China and India. What challenges and opportunities does the rise of China and India pose for Southeast Asia and how should policy-makers respond? Are bilateral free trade arrangements and bilateral economic partnerships a boon or bane for competitiveness? In identifying approaches and strategies to coping with these challenges and leveraging on the opportunities available, this book also links the quest for competitiveness with the necessity of social protection. The link comes in the form of the people who work for firms as human resources, and as users and innovators of technology. The book acknowledges and discusses the problems of inadequate technological and innovative capacity and the problems of managing labour productivity in Southeast Asia. However, the book also cautions against focusing on people solely as productive labour, whether in production or the knowledge sector. By highlighting the adverse social, economic and political consequences of ignoring social protection issues and challenging the myth that addressing social protection undermines competitiveness, the book emphasizes the social responsibilities incumbent on governments and firms in this age of growing economic insecurities.