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| Nota di contenuto | Introduction --chapter 1. The roads before motorways --chapter 2. 1922: the motorway from Milan to the Prealpine Lakes --chapter 3. Motorway mania in Italy in the 1920s --chapter 4. The ordinary roads problem --chapter 5. From the Pedemontana project to the Construction Suspension --chapter 6. A case study: the Turin-Milan motorway --chapter 7. The 1930s: the European utopia and the nationalist fulfilment --chapter 8. The bankruptcy and legacy of the motorways --Conclusion. |
| Sommario/riassunto | On March 26th, 1923, in a formal ceremony, construction of the Milan–Alpine Lakes autostrada officially began, the preliminary step toward what would become the first European motorway. That Benito Mussolini himself participated in the festivities indicates just how important the project was to Italian Fascism. This book recounts the twisting fortunes of the autostrada, which—alongside railways, aviation, and other forms |

of mobility—Italian authorities hoped would spread an ideology of technological nationalism. It explains how Italy ultimately failed to realize its mammoth infrastructural vision, addressing the political and social conditions that made a coherent plan of development impossible.
