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Sommario/riassunto	This book traces women's influence on maternity policy in Norway from 1880-1940. Maternity policies, including maternity leave, midwifery

services and public assistance for mothers, were some of the first welfare policies enacted in Norway. Feminists, midwives, and working women participated in their creation and helped transform maternity policies from a restriction to a benefit. Situating Norway within the larger European context, this book contributes to discussions of Scandinavian welfare state development and further untangles the relationship between social policy and gender equality. This study of poor, rural women alongside urban middle-class feminists is rooted in an inclusive archival source base that speaks to the interplay between local and national welfare officials and recipients, the development and implementation of laws in diverse settings, the divergent effects maternity policies had on women, and women's varied responses.
