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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- PART I. INHUMANLY WISE SHAME -- 1. Gesture of Philosophy -- 2. Historico-Philosophic Shame -- 3. Unmythic Wisdom -- 4. Foolishness of Philosophy -- 5. Prophecy of Shame -- Part II. ANXIETY AND ATTENTIVENESS -- 6. Anxiety -- 7. Study -- 8. Distractedly Attentive -- 9. Anxious Friendliness as Physical Attentiveness -- PART III POLITICS -- 10. Exception and Decision -- 11. In the Epic 'Vorwelt' -- 12. Philosophy, Literature, Politics -- Bibliography.-Acknowledgements -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	This book provides a critical assessment of Benjamin's writings on Franz Kafka and of Benjamin's related writings. Eliciting from Benjamin's writings a conception of philosophy that is political in its dissociation from – its becoming renegade in relation to, its philosophic shame about – established laws, norms, and forms, the book compares Benjamin's writings with relevant works by Agamben, Heidegger, Levinas, and others. In relating Benjamin's writings on Kafka to Benjamin's writings on politics, the study delineates a philosophic impetus in literature and argues that this impetus has potential political consequences. Finally, the book is critical of Benjamin's messianism

insofar as it is oriented by the anticipated elimination of exceptions and distractions. Exceptions and distractions are, the book argues, precisely what literature, like other arts, brings to the fore. Hence the philosophic, and the political, importance of literature. .
