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Nota di contenuto	1. Preface -- 2. Part I - Evolution of water management in Italy -- 3. Chapter 1. Italy's outline M. Benedini -- 4. Chapter 2. Paradigm changes in water resources development G. Rossi -- 5. Chapter 3. Water Legislation: main innovation principles on water resources uses, pollution control and flood risk mitigation, G. Rossi -- 6. Chapter 4. Institutional framework of water governance: planning, service management and soil defense) G. Rossi -- 7. Part II - Water resources and water demands -- 8. Chapter 5. Conventional water resources (Surface and ground water resources) G. Rossi, M. Benedini -- 9. Chapter 6. Unconventional water resources (desalinated waters and treated wastewater reuse) G. Rossi, G. Cirelli -- 10. Chapter 7.

Assessment of water requirements (domestic and urban uses; agricultural uses; industrial uses, navigation...) M. Benedini, R. Drusiani -- 11. Part III - Problems -- 12. Chapter 8. Management of municipal water services M. Di Natale, G. Rossi -- 13. Chapter 9. Water pollution control M. Benedini -- 14. Chapter 10. Water and electric power G. Ruggeri, M. Benedini -- 15. Chapter 11. Ecological in-stream flows (or water and environment) S. Alecci, G. Rossi -- 16. Part IV – Challenges -- 17. Chapter 12. Mitigation of flood risk G. Rossi -- 18. Chapter 13. Coping with droughts G. Rossi -- 19. Chapter 14. Virtual water F. Laio, S. Tamea, M. Tuminetti -- 20. Chapter 15. Adaptations strategies to climate change in water resources D. Peres -- 21. Part V – Conclusions -- 22. Chapter 16. The future of water management in Italy M. Benedini, G. Rossi. .

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## Sommario/riassunto

This book offers a comprehensive framework of the current state of water resources in Italy and of the main stages of the evolutionary way in the last decades for achieving an integrated, sustainable and equitable water resources management. The main paradigms of water resources development are identified as: i) engineering and economic approach to water resources exploitation, ii) focus on pollution control and water-excess management, iii) a comprehensive approach toward a sustainable and equitable distribution of resources and effective risk reduction of water-related disasters. After a section devoted to the analysis of some historic stages in the legislation framework and the governance of water and soil, with particular reference to planning, design, building and operation of water systems, two sections deal with the estimation of water resources availability on national territory and estimation of water demands in municipal, agricultural, industrial, ecosystem sectors. The complex problems that the Italian society has to solve in the water field and the main challenges of a changing world are discussed in the fourth section of the volume. The book will not only be useful for water professionals, but also for citizen who like to discern the key factors which delay the recognition of water as a resource for life. The description of the problems and adopted solutions could also serve as a guideline for similar situations encountered in other countries, improving the preparation of the responsible people.

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