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Sommario/riassunto	The range of themes covered here provide an introduction to the study of contemporary China, from the historical and cultural roots of the Middle Kingdom to the strategies of the five generations of leaders of the People's Republic of China, with a detailed characterization of its political organization and economic development model. China's re-emergence in International Relations and recent positioning regarding globalization frames its current geopolitical approach in the relationship with several states and regions. This book aims at guiding the readers' understanding of China towards the framework of the contemporary international system, presenting its political, economic and social challenges.