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| Nota di contenuto       | The prehistory of the automobile: from ancient times to 1884 -- The development of animal-drawn transportation -- The quest for a prime mover -- The pioneering era and coming of age: 1885-1918 -- The four-stroke engine and early vehicles by Daimler, Maybach, and Benz -- Further development at Daimler and Benz to the turn of the century -- France as the pacemaker of motorization -- Europe and North America embrace the idea of the automobile -- The automobile industry at the turn of the century, I -- The Mercedes era -- The great awakening -- Commercial vehicles and buses to 1914 -- The role of motorized vehicles in World War I, 1914 to 1918 -- The automobile as an industrial product: 1919-1945 -- American superiority -- The situation in Germany, 1918 to 1932 -- Europe between imitation and independence -- The automobile industry and automotive technology in the 1930s -- The Renaissance of German automotive technology -- Commercial vehicles and buses, 1919 to 1939 -- The diesel engine arrives on the automotive scene -- Motorized forces in World War II, 1939 to 1945 -- The mass-produced automobile: 1946-1979 -- The automobile industry and automotive technology in the 1950s -- The German auto industry: reconstruction and consolidation -- The Beetle and Mini establish new directions -- Mass motorization, and American legislative and oil crises -- The Japanese challenge -- The automobile |

as a consumer good: 1980-2000 -- New horizons through electronics -- Auto production in other countries -- Commercial vehicles and buses, 1945 to 2000 -- Maintenance methods: from village blacksmith to on-board diagnostics -- Alternative fuels, engines, and drive systems -- The automobile industry and automotive technology, 1980 to 2000 -- The automobile industry at the turn of the century, II -- 115 years of motorized traffic and transportation: the road behind, the road ahead.

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Sommario/riassunto

This book details the development of the automobile from its early beginnings to the present day. With emphasis on the European historical perspective, particularly the pioneering developments which occurred in Germany, *World History of the Automobile* chronicles the early vehicles by Daimler, Maybach and Benz, the "Mercedes Era," the role of motor vehicles in World Wars I and II, and the numerous technological and business revolutions of the second half of the 20th century.

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