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Nota di contenuto	The great divides -- The rise of the opposition -- The build-up to war -- The invasion -- Occupation authorities -- A collapsed state : a ruined economy : a damaged society -- Deepening rifts in a brittle society -- Dismantling the Ba'athist state -- The formation of the governing council and the rise of the insurgency -- The shadow of real power -- The enigma of Ayatollah Sistani -- A constitution in waiting -- The fires of sectarian hatreds -- A Marshall Plan for Iraq? -- April 2004 : the turning point -- The interim Iraqi government -- Arabs and Persians -- Showdown at the shrine -- To hold or abort an election -- Corruption and the Potemkin state -- Iraqi society on the eve of free elections -- The vote -- Negotiating a constitution -- Crises and the Jaafari government -- Into uncharted waters.
Sommario/riassunto	Involved for over thirty years in the politics of Iraq, Ali A. Allawi was a long-time opposition leader against the Baathist regime. In the post-Saddam years he has held important government positions and participated in crucial national decisions and events. In this book, the former Minister of Defense and Finance draws on his unique personal experience, extensive relationships with members of the main political groups and parties in Iraq, and deep understanding of the history and

society of his country to answer the baffling questions that persist about its current crises. What really led the United States to invade Iraq, and why have events failed to unfold as planned? The Occupation of Iraq examines what the United States did and didn't know at the time of the invasion, the reasons for the confused and contradictory policies that were enacted, and the emergence of the Iraqi political class during the difficult transition process. The book tracks the growth of the insurgency and illuminates the complex relationships among Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds. Bringing the discussion forward to the reconfiguration of political forces in 2006, Allawi provides in these pages the clearest view to date of the modern history of Iraq and the invasion that changed its course in unpredicted ways.
