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Sommario/riassunto	The years since World War II have seen rapid shifts in the relative positions of different countries and regions. Leading political economist Mancur Olson offers a new and compelling theory to explain these shifts in fortune and then tests his theory against evidence from many periods of history and many parts of the world. "[T]his elegant, readable book. . . sets out to explain why economies succumb to the 'British disease,' the kind of stagnation and demoralization that is now sweeping Europe and North America. . . . A convincing book that could make a big difference in the way we think about modern economic problems." -Peter Passell, The New York Times Book Review "Schumpeter and Keynes would have hailed the insights Olson gives into the sicknesses of the modern mixed economy." -Paul A. Samuelson,

Massachusetts Institute of Technology "One of the really important books in social science of the past half-century." -Scott Gordon, *The Canadian Journal of Economics* "The thesis of this brilliant book is that the longer a society enjoys political stability, the more likely it is to develop powerful special-interest lobbies that in turn make it less efficient economically." -Charles Peters, *The Washington Monthly* "Remarkable. The fundamental ideas are simple, yet they provide insight into a wide array of social and historical issues. . . . *The Rise and Decline of Nations* promises to be a subject of productive interdisciplinary argument for years to come." -Robert O. Keohane, *Journal of Economic Literature* "I urgently recommend it to all economists and to a great many non-economists." -Gordon Tullock, *Public Choice* "Olson's theory is illuminating and there is no doubt that *The Rise and Decline of Nations* will exert much influence on ideas and politics for many decades to come." -Pierre Lemieux, ReasonCo-winner of the 1983 American Political Science Association's Gladys M. Kammerer Award for the best book on U.S. national policy
