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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: the enlightened mind -- Descartes: willful thinking -- Hobbes: passionate thinking -- Locke: uneasy thinking -- Enthusiasm: inspired thinking -- Spinoza: resolute thinking -- Leibniz: trained thinking -- Conclusion: the public mind.
Sommario/riassunto	Kant believed that true enlightenment is the use of reason freely in public. This book systematically traces the philosophical origins and development of the idea that the improvement of human understanding requires public activity. Michael Losonsky focuses on seventeenth-century discussions of the problem of irresolution and the closely connected theme of the role of volition in human belief formation. This involves a discussion of the work of Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza and Leibniz. Challenging the traditional views of seventeenth-century philosophy and written in a lucid, non-technical language, this book

will be eagerly sought out by historians of philosophy and students of the history of ideas.
