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Nota di contenuto	Introduction Humanist pretensions: Catholics, communists and Sartre's struggle for existentialism in postwar France Derrida's "Christian" existentialism Normalization: the Ecole normale superieure and Derrida's turn to Husserl Genesis as a problem: Derrida reading Husserl The God of mathematics: Derrida and the origin of geometry A history of differance L'ambiguite du concours: the deconstruction of commentary and interpretation in Speech and Phenomena The ends of man: reading and writing at the ENS Epilogue.
Sommario/riassunto	In this powerful study Edward Baring sheds fresh light on Jacques Derrida, one of the most influential yet controversial intellectuals of the twentieth century. Reading Derrida from a historical perspective and drawing on new archival sources, The Young Derrida and French

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Philosophy shows how Derrida's thought arose in the closely contested space of post-war French intellectual life, developing in response to Sartrian existentialism, religious philosophy and the structuralism that found its base at the Ecole Normale Superieure. In a history of the philosophical movements and academic institutions of post-war France, Baring paints a portrait of a community caught between humanism and anti-humanism, providing a radically new interpretation of the genesis of deconstruction and of one of the most vibrant intellectual moments of modern times.