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Sommario/riassunto	Specially commissioned papers by some of the most respected academics currently working in the field of higher education, drawing the situation as it is now and looking forward to the developments of the coming years. Will 'Dearing' prove to be little more than a stop-gap? What will be the balance of power between education institutions, the state and the private sector? What are the realities behind 'lifelong learning,' and form will it take if it steps out of the realms of theory?