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Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Contexts -- pt. 2. Fairytales, foxy women and swashbuckling heroes -- pt. 3. Representing history : epics, courtesans and master narratives 1796-1888 -- pt. 4. Belle epoque mania : Paris, the provinces and biopics.
Sommario/riassunto	When political and civil unrest threatened France's social order in the 1950's, French cinema provided audiences a seemingly unique form of escapism from such troubled times: a nostalgic look back to the France of the nineteenth and earlier centuries, with costume dramas set in the age of Napoleon, the Belle Epoque, the Revolution and further back still to seventeenth-century swashbuckler adventures and tales of mystery and revenge. Film critics, have routinely dismissed this period and this genre of French cinema, overlooking its importance in terms of political cultural history. French Cost