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Autore	Rollison David <1945->
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Nota di contenuto	What came before: antecedent structures and emergent themes -- The formation of a constitutional landscape, c. 1159-1327 -- The power of a common language -- Discords, quarrels and factions of the

commonalty: an ensemble of popular demands, 1328-1381 -- The spectre of commonalty: popular rebellion and the commonweal, 1381-1549 -- How trade became an affair of state: the politics of industry, 1381-1640 -- Touching the wires: industry and empire -- 'The first pace that is sick': the revolution of politics in Shakespeare's Coriolanus -- 'Boiling hot with questions': the English Revolution and the parting of the ways.

Sommario/riassunto

In 1500 fewer than three million people spoke English; today English speakers number at least a billion worldwide. This book asks how and why a small island people became the nucleus of an empire 'on which the sun never set'. David Rollison argues that the 'English explosion' was the outcome of a long social revolution with roots deep in the medieval past. A succession of crises from the Norman Conquest to the English Revolution were causal links and chains of collective memory in a unique, vernacular, populist movement. The keyword of this long revolution, 'commonwealth', has been largely invisible in traditional constitutional history. This panoramic synthesis of political, intellectual, social, cultural, religious, economic, literary and linguistic movements offers a 'new constitutional history' in which state institutions and power elites were subordinate and answerable to a greater community that the early modern English called 'commonwealth' and we call 'society'.
