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Nota di contenuto	Introduction : an approach to the issues and doctrines relating to unexpected circumstances / Ewoud Hondius and Hans Christoph Grigoleit -- Legal history / Andreas Thier -- Law and economics : the comparative law and economics of frustration in contracts / Marta Cenini, Barbara Luppi, Francesco Parisi -- Overview : concepts dealing with unexpected circumstances -- Questionnaire -- The case studies -- General comparative remarks : converging tendencies, remaining differences and the unsolved mystery of adjustment / Ewoud Hondius and Hans Christoph Grigoleit.
Sommario/riassunto	The recent financial crisis has questioned whether existing contracts may be adapted, terminated or renegotiated as a result of unexpected circumstances. The question is not a new one. In medieval times the

notion of *clausula rebus sic stantibus* was developed to cope with such situations, and Germany introduced the theory of *Wegfall der Geschäftsgrundlage*. In England, the *Coronation* cases provided one possible answer. This comparative study explores the possibility of classifying jurisdictions as 'open' or 'closed' in this regard.

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