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World Wars / Joachim Tauber -- Soviet Genocide in Latvia? Conflicting Cultures of Remembrance of Stalin's Policy, 1940–1953 / Erwin Oberländer -- The Convergence of Two Worlds: Historians and Emerging Histories in the Baltic States / Eva-Clarita Pettai -- "You've got to know History!" Remembering and Forgetting the Past in the Present-Day Baltic / David J. Smith -- The Unbearable Lightness of Incessant Change: The Predicaments of Modernity in Lithuania / Leonidas Donskis -- Contributors.

Sommario/riassunto

The years from 1918 to 1945 remain central to European History. It was a breath-taking time during which the very best and very worst attributes of Mankind were on display. In the euphoria of peace which followed the end of the First World War, the Baltic States emerged as independent forces on the world stage, participating in thrilling experiments in national and transnational governance. Later, following economic collapse and in the face of rising totalitarianism among even Europe's most cultured nations, Baltic communities succumbed to nationalism too. During wartime, Baltic peoples became both victims and, sometimes, victimisers. Ultimately their victimhood lasted until the end of the Cold War, yielding consequences still discernible at the start of the twenty first century. Taking the period 1918 to 1945 as pivotal, this collection of essays examines some of the key themes in Baltic History as they are emerging today. These include appreciations of identity, autonomy and the rights of national minorities; the everyday and social foundations of international security; and the importance of historical memory to popular and political identities.
