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Sommario/riassunto	This work explores central themes in Jewish and European history. Launching what was to become a comprehensive and vigorous forum for discussion of all aspects of the Jewish experience in Poland, this first volume established the pattern of bringing together work by established and younger scholars from many countries. The text begins with a discussion of the reconstruction of the history of pre-Ashkenazic Jewish settlement patterns in the Slavic lands. It examines the fundamental security and the economic and political power which the Jews possessed in 16th-18th century Poland and investigates the basic characteristics of the Jewish experience in Poland. It then investigates the changes in the attitude of Polish society toward the Jews in the 18th century.