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Sommario/riassunto	The Nordic Model is the 20th century Scandinavian recipe for combining stable democracies, individual freedom, economic growth and comprehensive systems for social security. But what happens when Sweden and Finland - two countries topping global indexes for competitiveness, productivity, growth, quality of life, prosperity, and equality - start doubting themselves and their future? Is the Nordic Model at a crossroads? Historically consensus, continuity, social cohesion, and broad social trust have been hailed as key components for the success and for the self-images of Sweden and Finland. In the contemporary, however, political debates in both countries are increasingly focused on risks, threats, and worry. Social disintegration, political polarization, geopolitical anxieties and threat of terrorism are often dominant themes. In this book, we focus on what appears a paradox: countries with low income differences, high faith in social institutions, and relatively high cultural homogeneity becoming fixated on the fear of polarization, disintegration and diminished social trust. Unpacking the presentist discourse of "worry" and a sense of interregnum at the face of geopolitical tensions, digitalization and

globalization as well as challenges to democracy, the chapters take steps back in time and explore the current conjecture through the eyes of historians and social scientists, addressing key aspects of and challenges to both the contemporary and future Nordic Model. In addition, the functioning and efficacy of the participatory democracy and current protocols of decision-making are debated. This work is essential reading for students and scholars of the welfare state, social reforms and populism as well as Nordic and Scandinavian studies. Anu Koivunen is Professor of Gender Studies at the Faculty of Social Science at Tampere University, Finland, on leave of absence from professorship in the Department of Media Studies at Stockholm University, Sweden. Jari Ojala is Professor of Comparative Business History at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. He is also the Vice Dean at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, responsible for research and innovations. Janne Holmen is Associate Professor of History of Education at Uppsala University, Sweden, and researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History, Sodertorn University, Sweden.
