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Autore	Ahlers Anna L <p>Anna Ahlers, Max-Planck-Institut Berlin, Deutschland </p>
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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Editorial -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. Individual and Collective Inclusion and Exclusion in Political Systems -- 2. The Rise of Complexity: Internal Differentiation of Political Systems -- 3. Knowledge and the Political System -- 4. Political Responsiveness: The Identification and Processing of Problems in Modern Polities -- 5. Expansion through Self-Restriction: Functional Autonomy in Modern

Democracies -- 6. The Bipolarity of Democracy and Authoritarianism
and Its Societal Origins -- Biography of Authors

Sommario/riassunto

This book is about the radical novelty of modern polities in a functionally differentiated world society. Premodern states were at the apex of a stratified, hierarchical society. They dominated society and all its groups and strata. Modern polities have to be understood through the ecology of relations among different function systems. They have to find and incessantly redefine their place in society. They produce decisions that are collectively binding, but in preparing these decisions experience constraints and knowledge deficiencies that are related to the complexity of a functionally differentiated society. The book concentrates on six analytical perspectives that reflect how modern polities are embedded into 21st century society. These perspectives are: the concept of inclusion and the inclusion revolution constitutive of modern polities; the internal differentiation of polities that endows them with an unprecedented complexity; the fact that polities do not know anything about society and the ways in which they compensate for this; representation and responsiveness as strategies to reconnect with society; the self-restriction of some polities that brings about ever new autonomous expert organizations; the symmetrical rise of autocracies and democracies as the two modern variants of political regimes.
