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Sommario/riassunto	Louis Dumont's concept of hierarchy continues to inspire social scientists. Using it as their starting point, the contributors to this volume introduce both fresh empirical material and new theoretical considerations. On the basis of diverse ethnographic contexts in Oceania, Asia, and the Middle East they challenge some current conceptions of hierarchical formations and reassess former debates, both with regard to new theoretical issues and the new world situation-of post-colonial and neo-colonial agendas, ideas of "democratization"

and "globalization," and expanding market-economies.

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