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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Foreword -- Chapter One. History and Chance: The Dynamics of the Breakthrough in the Eastern Bloc -- Introduction: The Logic of Privatization in the State Sector -- Chapter Two. Political Capitalism and Other Patterns of Privatization -- Introduction: New Configurations and Their Dynamics -- Chapter Three. Stage One: Forming the New Center -- Chapter Four. Stage Two: The Collapse of the New Center and Its Reorganization -- Chapter Five. The Discrete Revolution: The Role of Society in the Transformation Directed from Above -- Conclusion: Dilemmas for Democracy in Eastern Europe -- Afterword -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Understanding the dramatic political, social, and economic changes that have taken place in Poland in the mid-1980s is one key to predicting the future of the communist bloc. Jadwiga Staniszki, an influential, internationally known expert on contemporary trends in Eastern Europe, provides an insider's analysis that deserves the attention of all scholars interested in the region. Staniszki presents the breakthrough of 1989 as a consequence not only of systemic

contradictions within socialism but also of a series of chance events. These events include unique historical circumstances such as the emergence of the "globalist" faction in Moscow, with its new, world-system perception of crisis, and the discovery of the round-table technique as a productive ritual of communication, imitated all over Eastern Europe. After describing the development, collapse, and reorganization of a "new center" in Poland in 1989-1990, she discusses the first attempt at privatizing the economy. Her analysis of the dilemmas accompanying breakthrough and transition is an invaluable guide to the challenges that face both capitalism and democracy in Eastern Europe.

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