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Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Copyright -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- Part One. The Crisis Develops: September 1939-November 1940 -- I. "A Terrible, Stultifying Vacuum" -- II. "God, Love and Anglo-American Relations": The French Crisis -- III. Of Garden Hoses and Other Stories: Summer and Fall 1940 -- Part Two. The Crisis Faced and Solved: November 1940-March 1941 -- IV. "Money-Above All, Ready Money" -- V. The "Shoot the Works" Bill: Lend-Lease, Inception to Proposal -- VI. "God Save America From a King Named George"-or Franklin: The Congressional Debate -- VII. "From Something like Disaster": The Passage of The Lend-Lease Act -- VIII. "Like Hitting Wads of Cotton Wool": Conclusions -- Appendix -- Bibliography -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	Originally published in 1969. In The Most Unsordid Act, Warren Kimball provides a history of the Lend-Lease idea. The genesis and development of the Lend-Lease idea, although spanning less than two years, offers a subject of the broadest significance for major questions of democratic government and society. The story begins with the United States' growing recognition of the British monetary and gold shortage and ends with the passage of the Lend-Lease Act and the

American commitment that it involved. Dr. Kimball's narrative—chronological, detailed, and dramatic—includes analyses of the domestic and international concerns on both sides of the Atlantic and of the roles of the leading protagonists: President F. D. Roosevelt and Treasury Secretary Morgenthau, as well as Stimson, Hull, Churchill, and key British representatives. He also examines the possibility that Lend-Lease was designed to benefit the American economy at Britain's expense. A central question animates Kimball's account: How could a president who recognized the ultimate threat of Nazi Germany, but shared his nation's desire to avoid war, find a way to help an ally? The portrait of Roosevelt that emerges is instructive in view of revisionist histories that present him as a Machiavellian figure disingenuously leading his country to war. Kimball sees him, rather, as an essentially domestic president whose experiences and interests evolved from national concerns—as a man unschooled in international affairs, eager to avoid confrontation with his congressional opposition, wary of the British penchant for power politics, given to procrastination when faced with difficult problems, and anxious to avoid full-scale war. Yet, the administration's legislative strategy and the debate over the Lend-Lease Act clearly demonstrated that the president, his closest advisers, and the Congress were aware that the legislation would inevitably mean war with Germany. Based on such sources as the diaries of Morgenthau, the State Department Archives, Foreign Economic Administration records, the Stimson papers, and interviews with participants, this study provides insights that raise central questions about the functioning of the American system of government.
