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Sommario/riassunto	Drawing on the tradition of the Frankfurt School and on Jürgen Habermas's concept of the public sphere, Hohendahl takes a close look at the social history of literary criticism in Germany since the eighteenth century, and sheds light on some of the important political and social forces that shape literature and culture. Including seven essays originally published in German, the book conveys the rich possibilities of the German perspective for those who employ American and French critical techniques and for students of contemporary critical theory.