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Sommario/riassunto	This electronic version has been made available under a Creative Commons (BY-NC-ND) open access license. An illuminating introduction to how the Länder function not only within the country itself but also within the wider context of European political affairs. Looks at the Länder in the constitutional order of the country, and the political and administrative system. Their organization and administration is fully covered, as is their financial administration. The role of parties and elections in the Länder is looked at, and the importance of their parliaments. The first work in the English language that considers the Länder in this depth.