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in Japan; 6 Machizukuri in Japan: A historical perspective on participatory community-building initiatives; 7 Whose Kyoto?: Competing models of local autonomy and the townscape in the old imperial capital; 8 Conclusion: Decentralization policies - questioning the Japanese model; Select glossary of terms; Index

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#### Sommario/riassunto

Adding a new perspective to the current literature on decentralization in Japan, Cities, Autonomy and Decentralization in Japan, approaches the subject from an urban studies and planning approach. The essays in the collection present a cogent compilation of case studies focusing on the past, present and future of decentralization in Japan. These include small scale development in the fields such as citizen participation (machizukuri), urban form and architecture, disaster prevention and conservation of monuments. The contributors suggest that new trends are emerging

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