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Nota di contenuto	Introduction / James R. Lewis and Sarah Lewis -- Part I: Theoretical overview -- Understanding schisms : theoretical explanations for their origins / Roger Finke and Christopher P. Scheitle -- Part II: Survey of schisms in selected traditions -- Charismatic authority in Islam : an analysis of the cause of schisms in the ummah / Ron Geaves -- Schisms in Buddhism / Alan Cole -- Schisms in Japanese new religious movements / Robert Kisala -- Part III: Christian traditions -- Finishing the mystery : the watch tower and 'the 1917 schism' / George D. Chryssides -- Challenges to charismatic authority in the unificationist movement / David G. Bromley and Rachel S. Bobbitt -- Persecution and schismogenesis : how a penitential crisis over mass apostasy facilitated the triumph of Catholic Christianity in the Roman Empire / Joseph M.

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Sommario/riassunto

Schism (from the Greek 'to split') refers to a group that breaks away from another, usually larger organisation and forms a new organisation. Though the term is typically confined to religious schisms, it can be extended to other kinds of breakaway groups. Because schisms emerge out of controversies, the term has negative connotations. Though they are an important component of many analyses, schisms in general have not been subjected to systematic analysis. This volume provides the first book-length study of religious schisms as a general phenomenon. Some chapters examine specific case studies while others provide surveys of the history of schisms within larger religious traditions, such as Islam and Buddhism. Other chapters are more theoretically focused. Examples are drawn from a wide variety of different traditions and geographical areas, from early Mediterranean Christianity to modern Japanese New Religions, and from the Jehovah's Witnesses to Neo-Pagans.

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