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Sommario/riassunto	Behind the Iran-Iraq war rests a history of conflict stretching back to the Ottoman Turks and the Persians. This book examines the deep-seated and complex factors involved in the rivalry between these two nations. It focuses particularly on the period between 1969 and 1984, a

time that saw both the rise of the Ba'th party in Iraq and Khomeini's return to power in Iran. These changes did much to escalate tensions. The Ba'th party's ideological, socialist regime and its emphasis on political secular concerns stood in marked contrast to Iran under Khomeini and his efforts to spread an Islamic
