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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Two sources of liberal thought -- The golden age and twilight of enlightened liberalism -- Romantic liberalism -- Liberalism as the ideology of the intelligentsia -- The rise of positivism -- Positivism under attack -- In a world of alien ideas.
Sommario/riassunto	Based on solid research, this erudite study is a first attempt at presenting a comprehensive analysis of nineteenth-century Polish liberalism. Polish liberal tradition has generally been considered weak or even nonexistent. Janowski, on the other hand, argues that nineteenth-century Poland inherited a strong protoliberal tradition from the nobility-based democracy, and that in the mid-nineteenth century, liberalism was a dominant trend in Polish intellectual life, even if it rarely appeared in its pure form and did not create political movements separating liberal aims from patriotic ones.