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Chapter 10: Defending English in an English-dominant world: The Ideology of the 'Official English' movement in the United States Ronald Schmidt, SrChapter 11: Protecting French: The view from France Claudine Moise; Chapter 12: Embracing diversity for the sake of unity: Linguistic hegemony and the pursuit of total Spanish Jose del Valle; Chapter 13: Language endangerment and verbal hygiene: History, morality and politics Deborah Cameron; Index

Sommario/riassunto

Current academic discussions and public debates about language frequently focus on the importance of defending languages against various kinds of dangers. Many of these current debates attach great importance to linguistic diversity. The debates focus on defending institutionalized languages against multilingualism, or conversely defending minority languages against the incursion of larger ones, especially the spread of English. In both cases, languages are constructed as autonomous wholes, held to need defending against attack. This book challenges such a view of language, to argue that the
