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   Sommario/riassunto In the face of the world's disorders, moral concerns have provided a
                       powerful ground for developing international as well as local policies.
                       Didier Fassin draws on case materials from France, South Africa,
                       Venezuela, and Palestine to explore the meaning of humanitarianism in
                       the contexts of immigration and asylum, disease and poverty, disaster
                       and war. He traces and analyzes recent shifts in moral and political
                       discourse and practices - what he terms "humanitarian reason"- and
                       shows in vivid examples how humanitarianism is confronted by
                       inequality and violence. Deftly illuminating the tensions and
                       contradictions in humanitarian government, he reveals the ambiguities
                       confronting states and organizations as they struggle to deal with the
                       intolerable. His critique of humanitarian reason, respectful of the
                       participants involved but lucid about the stakes they disregard, offers
                       theoretical and empirical foundations for a political and moral
                       anthropology.