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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Abbreviations -- Introduction -- The Pioneering Era: Inventions and Impediments, 1846--1915 -- Telegraphy -- The Birth of Telegraphy -- The Telegraph Industry Gets Organized -- The Telephone -- Invention of the Telephone -- The Telephone Comes to Canada -- Bell Comes Out Fighting -- Balkanization of the Telephone Industry -- The Birth of Northern Electric and Technological Advances -- Unbridled Capitalism and Language Clashes -- The Telephone Industry in Canada and the International Scene -- Radio -- Radio: A Spectacular Success -- Creating Universal Service, 1915--56 -- Creation of a National Industry -- Bell's Long March to Independence -- The Other Telephone Companies -- Social Benefits and Labour Peace in the Telephone Industry -- The Canadian Regulatory Model -- Electromechanical Technology Hits Its Peak -- The International Scene -- Conclusion: How Telephony Changed the World -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	It is impossible to understand Canada without looking at the history and development of its telecommunications industry. In the nineteenth century Canada was the only country in the world constructed on the basis of technology - first the railway and, in its shadow, telegraphy. In

the 1930s this technological nationalism came of age and telecommunications became Canada's "national" technology. The Invisible Empire provides the first overview of Canadian telecommunications, from the laying of the first telegraph line between Toronto and Hamilton in 1846 to the separation between Nortel - then known as Northern Electric - and the American Bell System in 1956. Rens shows us that Louis Riel was beaten as much by telegraphy as by the Canadian army, and how Bell Canada - then known as Bell Telephone - escaped nationalization by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government. He follows the construction of the first trans-Canadian telephone line in the midst of the Great Depression of the 1930s and explains why, in the context of the Cold War, Canada built an electronic Great Wall of China in the far North. Rens examines the context that allowed the telecommunications industry to take hold so successfully in Canada and explores how the industry grew so quickly and managed to escape American domination. He situates Canadian accomplishments in telecommunications by comparing them with those of other countries.
