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Sommario/riassunto	There are over nine million men, women and children in prison around the world, and the number of people in prison in England and Wales has increased significantly in recent years. Yet in many respects prison remains the last secretive public institution in our society. Understanding Prisons provides a unique, in-depth examination of prisons ; how they function, what they achieve, and their historical and political context. The book:. Describes how prisons developed into their present form. Looks at who is sent to prison and what happens to them while they are there. Explains how the prison sy