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Sommario/riassunto	The connection between productive labour and effective demand has often been ignored and disputed in political economy, even by giants like Ricardo and Marx. This book traces the historical development of theories, concentrating in particular on those of Malthus, Marx and Keynes. Particular attention is also paid to the Great Depression in the UK and USA.* The Pre-Classical Approach * The Classical Economists * Socialists and Dissidents * Anti-Classical Theories in the Twentieth Century