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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The rise and fall of states -- The influence of constitutional paradigms -- The hard and the soft constitution -- The underlying theory -- Authoritarianism -- Doctrinaire liberalism -- Empires and supra-national entities -- Mixed models.
Sommario/riassunto	This book examines the influence of constitutional legal paradigms upon the political stability and viability of states. It contributes to the literature in the field by focussing on how constitutional flexibility may have led to the rise of 'successful' states and to the decline of 'unsuccessful' states, by promoting stability. Divided into two parts, the book considers theories of the rise and fall of civilizations and individual states, explains the concept of hard and soft constitutions and applies this concept to different types of state models. A series of international case studies in t