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Nota di contenuto	Nationhood and empire: a tale of historical and ethno-cultural similarities and differences -- From empire to independence: Europe as the future -- The nation-state in imperial/supranational shadow: the apparent decline of Europe -- Communist experiences in a divided Europe -- 'Return to Europe', 'closer to Europe': post-communist expectations -- Epilogue: is 'Europe' still the future?
Sommario/riassunto	From the late nineteenth century to the post-communist period, Albanian and Georgian political and intellectual elites have attributed hopes to "Europe," yet have also exhibited ambivalent attitudes that do not appear likely to vanish any time soon. Albanians and Georgians have evoked, experienced, and continue to speak of "Europe" according to a tense triadic entity-geopolitics, progress, culture-which has generated aspirations as well as delusions towards it and themselves. This unique dichotomy weaves a nuanced, historical account of a changing Europe, continuously marred by uncertainties