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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Acknowledgments; 1 Introduction; Importance of the Topic; What Are "Armed Groups"?; Book Objectives; Armed Groups and International Relations Theory; Conclusion; Discussion Questions; Recommended Reading; Notes; 2 Conflict in the Twenty-First Century; Interstate Conflict Decreasing; The "New War" Paradigm?; Irregular Warfare; Role of Geopolitical and Geostrategic Factors; US Participation in Intrastate Conflicts; Armed-Group Threats to the United States; Discussion Questions; Recommended Readings; Notes; 3 What Are Armed Groups? Distinguishing Between Armed Groups and State MilitariesCommon Armed-Group Characteristics; Armed-Group Formation; Challenging the "Nonstate Actor" Label; Discussion Questions; Recommended Readings; Notes; 4 Armed-Group Archetypes; Insurgents; Terrorists; Transnational Criminal Organizations; Militias; "Commercial" Armed Groups; Evolution, "Hybridization," and the Crime-Terror Nexus; Discussion Questions; Recommended Readings; Notes; 5 Internal Characteristics; Leadership; Organization; Membership; Ideology; Objectives; Discussion Questions; Recommended Readings; Notes

6 External Characteristics Strategy; Tactics; Strategic Communications; External Support; Discussion Questions; Recommended Readings; Notes; 7 Combating Armed Groups; Combating Grievances and the Environment; Military, Political, Legal, and Economic Constraints on Governments; General Countering Strategies; Combating the Armed Group; Conclusion; Discussion Questions; Recommended Readings; Notes; 8 Conclusion; Armed-Group Adaptation and Evolution; Future Armed-Group Threats; Combating Armed Groups; Three Questions; Recommended Readings; Notes; Bibliography; Index; About the Author

Sommario/riassunto

In this age of asymmetric warfare, battles are fought more and more against armed groups of opponents such as terrorists, insurgents, or transnational criminal organizations. This text is the first to categorize armed groups and analyze their characteristics in a systematic way to provide a thorough overview of all types of armed groups and the role they play in today's security environment. Drawing on international case studies and histories, the work analyzes the objectives, strategies, and internal composition of armed groups and the environments that foster them. It demonstrates that arme
