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Nota di contenuto	Introduction : probing the extremes -- Death penalty : political theory of extreme punishment -- A history of violence : changing conceptions of punishment in time and some attempts to explain them -- Comparative politics of punishment : stories from the penal peripheries -- Punishment and power : if power punishes, does absolute power punish absolutely? -- Punishment and the sacred : how do great religions punish? -- Punishment and fiction : images of violence in literature and film -- Criminology : politics in the science of crime -- Dismantling sorrow.