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Sommario/riassunto	In T. S. Eliot's <i>Ascetic Ideal</i> , Joshua Richards charts an intellectual history of T. S. Eliot's interaction with asceticism. This history is drawn from Eliot's own education in the topic with the texts he read integrated into detailed textual analysis. Eliot's early encounters with the ascetic ideal began a lifetime of interplay and reflection upon self-denial, purgation, and self-surrender. In 1909, he began a study of mysticism, likely, in George Santayana's seminar, and thereafter showed the influence of this education. Yet, his interaction with the ascetic ideal and his background in mysticism was not a simple thing; still, his early cynicism was slowly transformed to an embrace.