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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Of Beauty, Truth, and Evil -- Part One: Chichikov's Prehistory -- Ethos and Epic -- The Ground Plan of Dead Souls -- The Ground Plan of Dead Souls Revisited -- Part Two: Chichikov's Crime -- On Truth and Lies in a Moral Sense -- The Five Faces of Lying -- In the Shadow Realm of Lies -- Part Three: Chichikov's Punishment -- Judgment and Rumor -- The Five Acts of the Drama -- Ethos and Epic: Chichikov's Crime and Punishment.
Sommario/riassunto	A bold attempt at solving the riddle of Gogol's novel Dead Souls. Gogol constructed the novel strictly according to a moral pattern. The novel thus proves to be a true descendant of medieval romance with its inseparable interrelation between ethics and epics.