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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: The Stalinist leader cult : origins, interpretations, and functions -- Part I. The construction of the cult -- The chronology of cult construction (1925-1953) -- The institutions and agents of cult construction -- "The biography is a very serious issue" : the role of biographies in constructing the Rakosi cult -- "He was created by a thousand years" : nationalism and the leader cult -- "Comrade Rakosi lives with us" : the visual and the spatial aspects of the Rakosi cult -- Part II. Responses to the cult's expansion -- "Love for Comrade Rakosi has become deeper" : the communicative influence of the cult -- "Death to Uncle Rakosi!" : negative perceptions of the cult -- Ignorance is bliss : popular indifference and the shortcomings of communist propaganda -- Part III. The dismantling of the cult -- The "new course" and the decay of the Rakosi cult, 1953-1956 -- The collapse of the Rakosi cult.
Sommario/riassunto	This book offers a detailed analysis of the construction, reception, and eventual decline of the cult of the Hungarian Communist Party Secretary, Mátyás Rákosi, one of the most striking examples of

orchestrated adulation in the Soviet bloc. While his cult never approached the magnitude of that of Stalin, Rákosi's ambition to outshine the other "best disciples" and become the best of the best was manifest in his diligence in promoting a Soviet-type ritual system in Hungary. The main argument of *The Invisible Shining* is that the cult of personality is not just a curious aspect of communist dictatorship, it is an essential element of it. The monograph is primarily concerned with techniques and methods of cult construction, as well as the role various institutions played in the creation of mythical representations of political figures. While engaging with a wider international literature on Stalinist cults, the author uses the case of Rákosi to explore how personality cults are created, how such cults are perceived, and how they are eventually unmade. The book addresses the success—generally questionable—of such projects, as well as their uncomfortable legacies.

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