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Nota di contenuto	Traces of the dark horse -- The expansionist -- The autocrat -- The historian and the president -- The legends of Manifest Destiny -- The road to Fort Sumter.
Sommario/riassunto	<div>Soon after winning the presidency in 1845, according to the oft- repeated anecdote, James K. Polk slapped his thigh and predicted what would be the ""four great measures"" of his administration: the acquisition of some or all of the Oregon Country, the acquisition of California, a reduction in tariffs, and the establishment of a permanent independent treasury. Over the next four years, the Tennessee Democrat achieved all four goals. And those milestones-along with his purported enunciation of them-have come to define his presidency. Indeed, repeated <i>ad infinitum</i> in U.S. history text