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Nota di contenuto	Part I. The shaping of regional societies, 1750s to 1850s ; Introduction : the paths diverge ; Eighteenth-century perceptions ; Peasants and freeholders ; Religion and labor ; Mobility and education ; Entrepreneurial spirit in the north and south ; Entrepreneurial spirit in French Canada ; Intellectual Life -- Part II. From the 1860s to the 1990s ; The gap widens : 1860s to 1940 ; The paths converge : 1940 to 1975 ; The post-industrial economy, 1975 to the 1990s ; A concluding note -- Appendices. Some thorny concepts : capitalism, the capitalist spirit, and the household economy ; Three farms in 1750.
Sommario/riassunto	Why are some countries without an apparent abundance of natural resources, such as Japan, economic success stories, while other languish in the doldrums of slow growth. In this comprehensive look at North American economic history, Marc Egnal argues that culture and institutions play an integral role in determining economic outcome. He focuses his examination on the eight colonies of the North, five colonies of the South (which together made up the original thirteen

states), and French Canada. Using census data, diaries, travelers' accounts, and current scholarship, Egnal systematically explores how institutions (such as slavery in the South and the seigneurial system in French Canada) and cultural arenas (such as religion, literacy, entrepreneurial spirit, and intellectual activity) influenced development. He seeks to answer why three societies with similar standards of living in 1750 became so dissimilar in development. By the mid-nineteenth century, the northern states had surged ahead in growth, and this gap continued to widen into the twentieth century. Egnal argues that culture and institutions allowed this growth in the North, not resources or government policies. Both the South and French Canada stressed hierarchy and social order more than the drive for wealth. Rarely have such parallels been drawn between these two societies. Complete numerous helpful appendices, figures, tables, and maps, *Divergent Paths* is a rich source of unique perspectives on economic development with strong implications for emerging societies.
