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Sommario/riassunto	Spanning both the history of the modern West and his own five-decade journey as a historian, Gerald Stourzh's sweeping new essay collection covers the same breadth of topics that has characterized his career- from Benjamin Franklin to Gustav Mahler, from Alexis de Tocqueville to Charles Beard, from the notion of constitution in seventeenth-century England to the concept of neutrality in twentieth-century Austria. This storied career brought him in the 1950's from the University of Vienna to the University of Chicago-of which he draws a brilliant picture-and later took him to