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Nota di contenuto	1. Land and people -- 2. From empire to nation -- 3. Qajar Iran : decline and tumult, 1786-1921 -- 4. A new order, 1921-1953 -- 5. Modernizing Iran, 1953-1978 -- 6. Revolution and war, 1978-1988 -- 7. The second Islamic Republic, 1989-2005 -- 8. Foreign relations under Khatami -- 9. Summary and prospects.
Sommario/riassunto	Exploring continuities and changes, this book provides the historical backdrop crucial to understanding how Iranian pride and sense of victimization combine to make its politics contentious and potentially dangerous.