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Autore	Kirby M. W
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Sommario/riassunto	This is the first of two projected volumes on the history of operational research (OR) in Britain commissioned by the UK Operational Research Society. Based upon a vast array of published and unpublished sources, the book provides an original account of the discipline's pre-war and wartime origins. This serves as a prelude to a wide-ranging analysis of the diffusion of OR into the public and private sectors after 1945. The chapters on the role of OR in iron and steel and coal-mining, and its

rapid adoption in the UK corporate sector after 1960, will be of particular interest to practitioners.
