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Sommario/riassunto	Chronicling the highly partisan and polarized environment during the historic first term of President Barak Obama, Congress and the Nation 2009-2012 is the most authoritative reference on congressional law-

making and trends during the 111th and 112th Congresses. It covers the shift in partisan control of the U.S. House after the 2010 midterm election and the subsequent gridlock for lawmaking in the 112th Congress, stimulus spending in the wake of the financial crisis, controversial reform of the U.S. healthcare system, showdowns over raising the national debt ceiling, and much more.