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Sommario/riassunto	The fourteen essays collected in this volume, notwithstanding their diversity of subject matter and approach, share a concern with the

contexts to which we need to refer in order to understand not only the origins, but also the potential of Mikhail Bakhtin's thought: contexts both immediate and oblique, personal and impersonal, intellectual and theoretical. Five of the essays are by well-known Russian scholars whose work on Bakhtin has not previously been translated in English; the other nine papers are by established and emerging Bakhtin specialists in North America, the United Kingdom, and E
