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	 4.2 The Post-Vatican II Revival of the Symbiosis between Ecclesiology and Political Philosophy4.3 The Theological Basis of that Symbiosis in the Principle that' Gratia non destruit sed supponit et perfi cit natura; 4.4 The Historical Rejection of the Continuity between Nature and Grace in the Case of the Church; 4.5 Post-Vatican II Mystifi cation of the Church; 4.6 Examples of Mystifi cation of the Church; 4.7 Elements of the Continuity between the Christian and the Human Polity; 4.8 Conclusion; Chapter 5 Central Insights and Categories of Democratic Political Philosophy; 5.1 Introduction 5.2 Belief, Common Meaning and Community5.2.1 The Intentional Structure at the Origin of Belief; 5.2.2 Community, Cooperation and Powe; 5.3 Delegation and Authority; 5.4 Subsidiarity; 5.5 Authority and Offi ce; 5.6 Expert Authority and the Risk of Guardianship; 5.7 Historical Development Away from the Traditional Understanding of Authority as Necessarily Unique, Supreme and Omnicompetent; 5.8 The Criticism to the Classical Conception of Authority as One, Indivisible, Supreme and Omnicompetent; 5.9 The Relationship between Specialized Authorities in Society and the Political Authority 5.10 Unanimity and Majority5.11 The Danger of the Dictatorship of the Majority, or How to Safeguard the Minority's Freedom of Conscience?; 5.12 Majority and Relativism; 5.13 Legitimation and Legitimacy of Authority; 5.14 Conclusion; Chapter 6 A Democratic Ecclesiology; 6.1 Introduction; 6.2 Human Consent and Divine Institution: The Nature of Ecclesial Authority; 6.3 The Selection of Church Offi cials; 6.4 Centralization of Competences in the Roman Catholic Church; 6.5 The Relationship between and Specialized Ministries/ Authorities in the Christian Community 6.6 The Pauline Endorsement of the Ecclesial Division of Labour and His Rejection of Mono-ministry
Sommario/riassunto	Are church structures divinely-willed, and consequently both permanent and irreversible? Can Christians modify the polity of their church like they do with that of civil society? What would be the role of the office of oversight in a Christian church democratically organized? What would its relationship with specialized authorities within the community be?Building on a remarkable number of specialist studies in exegesis, church history, political philosophy, canon law, and ecclesiology, this book convincingly fulfils three goals. First, it encourages Christians to determine the political outlo