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Resistance; Part VI: The Republic; 18 The Structure of Postwar Italy; 19

	Postwar Politics: "Imperfect Bipolarism"; 20 The Economic Miracle and Its Effects; 21 A Style for the Republic; 22 The "Bloodless Revolution"; 23 The Berlusconi Phenomenon; Bibliographical Essay; About the Book and Author; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Spans three centuries of Italian history, weaving together the country's social, political, and economic developments and orienting them within the larger framework of European history.