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Autore	Motomura Hiroshi <1953->
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [205]-242) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: immigrants in America -- Contract and classical immigration law -- Promises, promises -- All persons within the territorial jurisdiction -- Alienage and the ties that bind -- The most tender connections -- The lost story of Americans-in-waiting -- Transition at a crossroads -- The meaning of transition -- Race, belonging, and transition -- Taking transition seriously -- Conclusion : the idea of Americans-in-waiting -- Notes.
Sommario/riassunto	America is unquestionably a nation of immigrants. And yet throughout its history the practicalities of immigration have inspired more questions than consensus. Who should be admitted? What should the path to citizenship be? Despite national security concerns over enemies penetrating our borders, the number of foreign-born people living in the United States grew to 35 million in 2005, an all-time high. A coherent and rational immigrant policy is more necessary than ever. In <i>Americans in Waiting</i> , Hiroshi Motomura discovers in our national past a simple yet powerful approach to immigration and ci