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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Toleration: concept and conceptions -- More than a prehistory: antiquity and the Middle Ages -- Reconciliation, schism, peace: humanism and the Reformation -- Toleration and sovereignty: political and individual -- Natural law, toleration and revolution: the rise of liberalism and the aporias of freedom of conscience -- The Enlightenment -- for and against toleration -- Toleration in the modern period -- Routes to toleration -- The justification of toleration -- The finitude of reason -- The virtue of tolerance -- The tolerant society.
Sommario/riassunto	The concept of toleration plays a central role in pluralistic societies. It designates a stance which permits conflicts over beliefs and practices to persist while at the same time defusing them, because it is based on

reasons for coexistence in conflict - that is, in continuing dissension. A critical examination of the concept makes clear, however, that its content and evaluation are profoundly contested matters and thus that the concept itself stands in conflict. For some, toleration was and is an expression of mutual respect in spite of far-reaching differences, for others, a condescending, potentially repressive attitude and practice. Rainer Forst analyses these conflicts by reconstructing the philosophical and political discourse of toleration since antiquity. He demonstrates the diversity of the justifications and practices of toleration from the Stoics and early Christians to the present day and develops a systematic theory which he tests in discussions of contemporary conflicts over toleration.
