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Sommario/riassunto

'Barbarism and Religion' - Edward Gibbon's own phrase - is the title of an acclaimed sequence of works by John Pocock designed to situate Gibbon, and his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, in a series of contexts in the history of eighteenth-century Europe. This is a major intervention from one of the world's leading historians of ideas, challenging the notion of any one 'Enlightenment' and positing instead a plurality of enlightenments, of which the English was one. In this first volume, *The Enlightenments of Edward Gibbon*, John Pocock follows Gibbon through his youthful exile in Switzerland and his criticisms of the *Encyclopedie*, and traces the growth of his historical interests down to the conception of the *Decline and Fall* itself.
