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Nota di contenuto	Why missile defense? -- Strategic roles for missile defense -- The nuts and bolts of missile defense -- BMD and the Clinton administration -- BMD and the Bush administration -- BMD and the Obama administration -- The strategic utility of missile defense.
Sommario/riassunto	Why has the United States continued to develop ballistic missile defenses in an era of irregular warfare and asymmetric terrorist threats? How does missile defense contribute to US global strategy? Can the BMD system achieve the goals that lay behind its creation? Michael Mayer addresses these questions in his balanced approach to the contentious debate over the strategic value of missile defense. Mayer surveys the grand strategies of the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations, methodically comparing them with each president's missile defense policies. He also demystifies the fundamentals of the BMD system. Seeking to change the terms of the debate, he cogently challenges much of the conventional wisdom touted by both supporters and detractors of ballistic missile defense.