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Sommario/riassunto	The seven essays collected in this book address the history of modern ideas and contemporary cultural issues. The first is the discourse of Marquand's acceptance of the Sigmund Freud prize; the second addresses the equivalence of modernity and the theodicee; the third confronts the idea of "meaning"; the fourth considers the notion of world history; the fifth addresses world alienation; the sixth deals with the human sciences; and the seventh is a mediation on chance and luck as essential aspects of the human condition.