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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Part I: William and Anne, 1688-1714. Nature and Nurture ; The Flowers of the Forest ; The Piping Time of Peace. -- Part II: George I, 1714-27. Civil and Religious Rage ; Toil, Trouble, South Sea Bubble ; A Dull Duty and a Public Cause. -- Part III: George II, 1727-44. Dunces the Second Reigns ; Libels and Satires ; Friendship and Opposition ; Epilogue: After Walpole.
Sommario/riassunto	This is the first study to assess the entire career of Alexander Pope (1688-1744) in relation to the political issues of his time. While much has been written on the politics of Pope, most of this relates to his possible Jacobite sympathies and his involvement in the opposition to Sir Robert Walpole in the 1730s. This biography covers the whole range of the poet's life, starting with his family background and the extended Catholic circle in which he continued to move, an important factor in the making of <i>The Rape of the Lock</i> . The book shows for the first time the continuing impact on his work of party divisions in London (deriving partly from his father's career as a merchant) and offers a fresh reading of <i>The Dunciad</i> as a commentary on City

politics. It brings out a sustained commentary on the fortunes of the Tory party, especially the fate of Robert Harley, Matthew Prior and Francis Atterbury, which supplies a hidden subtext in the *Epistle to Bathurst*. The longstanding quarrel with the publisher Edmund Curll is seen to connect in unexpected ways with the public dramas of the day. While the book gives detailed attention to Pope's poetry and prose, exploring both major and minor texts, it draws on his own letters, together with the correspondence of friends such as Jonathan Swift, John Gay and Dr John Arbuthnot.
