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Sommario/riassunto	Charting the rise of one of the great families of late sixteenth-century France, the Gondi, this book unravels the complex relationship between French society and Italians who held key positions within French government. It demonstrates how members of the Gondi family played a leading part in the finance, government, church and military affairs, and were indispensable counselors to the Queen Mother, Catherine De' Medici.