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Sommario/riassunto	This comprehensive introduction to the thought of Jurgen Habermas covers the full range of his ideas from his early work on student politics to his recent work on communicative action, ethics and law. Andrew Edgar examines Habermas's key texts in chronological order, revealing the developments, shifts and turns in Habermas's thinking as he refines his basic insights and incorporates new sources and ideas. Some of the themes discussed include Habermas's early reshaping of Marxist theory and practice, his characterization of critical theory, his conception of universal pragmatics, his theories of communicative action and discourse ethics, and his defence of the project of modernity. Edgar offers much more than a schematic run through of Habermas's big ideas. He deals in detail with Habermas's arguments in order to demonstrate how he weaves together multiple strands of thought, and he usefully situates Habermas's ideas within the contexts of the history

of German philosophy, the history of sociology, and within contemporary debates in both continental and analytic philosophy. By engaging with some of Habermas's key critics and contrasting his views with the ideas of contemporaries, Edgar is able to give a clear sense of Habermas's place and importance in contemporary philosophy and social theory.

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