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Autore	Hueglin Thomas O
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Nota di contenuto	Front Matter -- Table Of Contents -- Foreword -- Introduction: Reconstruction, Relevance, and Context -- The Contextual World of Althusius' Thought -- Four Hundred Years of Althusius Controversy and the Need for a New Interpretation -- The Historical Context: The St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, the Dutch Revolt against Spain, and the Rise of the Absolutist State -- Theoretical Consequences: Absolutism and Territorial Centralization -- Recourse to Alternative Traditions: Political Calvinism, Aristotle, and Germanic Communitarianism -- The Method: Politico, Methodice Digesta Exemplis Sacris & Profanis Illustrata -- The Althusian System of Politics -- Consociation: The Principle of Political Community in a Civil Society -- Societal Federalism: A Compound Polity of Particular and Universal Citizenship -- Representation: Problems of Participation and Legitimacy in the Political Process -- Subsidiarity and the Division of Powers: The Balance between Autonomy and Solidarity -- Sovereignty: Organized Unity of Action and a Right to Civil Disobedience -- The Relevance of Althusius Today -- Conclusion: Lineage and Affinities -- Appendices

Sommario/riassunto

Who was Althusius, and why is the work of a seventeenth-century political theorist important in modern times? Johannes Althusius (1557-1638) was a political theorist and a combative city politician who defended the rights of small communities against territorial absolutism. He designed a system of politics in which sovereignty would be shared and jointly exercised by a plurality of collectivities, spatial as well as social, on the basis of mutual consent and social solidarity. Early Modern Concepts for a Late Modern World places Althusius in the context of his times and explains the main features of his political thought. It also suggests, perhaps most significantly, why his theories continue to resonate today. Hueglin's use of sources is thorough and scrupulous. He has worked in depth in Germanic scholarship and this access to German-language sources, some of which are almost unknown to the English-speaking world, provides a new interpretation of Althusius' theory. With its emphasis on pluralized governance, negotiated compromise instead of majority rule, and the inclusion of the economic sphere into the political, Althusius' theory belongs to a countertradition in Western political thought. Although it was written at the beginning of the modern age of sovereign politics, it applies to today's search for a post-sovereign system of politics.
