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Sommario/riassunto	How do real individuals live together in real societies in the real world? Jeffrey Alexander's masterful work, ""The Civil Sphere"", addresses this central paradox of modern life. Feelings for others - the solidarity that is ignored or underplayed by theories of power or self-interest - are at the heart of this novel inquiry into the meeting place between normative theories of what we think we should do and empirical studies of who we actually are. A grand and sweeping statement, ""The Civil Sphere"" is a major contribution to our thinking about the real, but ideal world in which we all reside