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Nota di contenuto	Prologue: Court politics and reform -- 1. Tsar and boyars: structures and values -- 2. The ascendancy of Artamon Matveev, 1671-1676 -- 3. The reign of Tsar Fyodor, 1676-1682 -- 4. The regency of Sofia, 1682-1689 -- 5. Peter in power, 1689-1699 -- 6. Peter and the favorites: Golovin and Menshikov, 1699-1706 -- 7. Poltava and the new gubernias, 1707-1709 -- 8. The Senate and the eclipse of Menshikov, 1709-1715 -- 9. The affair of the tsarevich, 1715-1717 -- 10. The end of Aleksei Petrovich, 1718 -- Epilogue and conclusion, 1718-1725.
Sommario/riassunto	A narrative of the fifty years of political struggles at the Russian court, 1671-1725. This book shows how Peter the Great was not the all-powerful tsar working alone to reform Russia, but that he colluded with powerful and contentious aristocrats in order to achieve his goals. After the early victory of Peter's boyar supporters in the 1690s, Peter turned

against them and tried to rule through favourites - an experiment which ended in the establishment of a decentralized 'aristocratic' administration, followed by an equally aristocratic Senate in 1711. The aristocrats' hegemony came to an end in the wake of the affair of Peter's son, Tsarevich Aleksei, in 1718. After that moment Peter ruled through a complex group of favourites, a few aristocrats and appointees promoted through merit, and carried out his most long-lasting reforms. The outcome was a new balance of power at the centre and a new, European, conception of politics.

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