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Autore	Smith John Howard
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Sommario/riassunto	The First Great Awakening, an unprecedented surge in Protestant Christian revivalism in the eighteenth century, sparked enormous controversy at the time and has been a source of scholarly debate ever since. Few historians have sought to write a synthetic history of the First Great Awakening, and, in recent decades, its having happened at all has been challenged as being either an exaggeration or an "invention."