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Titolo	Globalization in State Socialist East Central Europe : Looking Beyond Dominant Narratives // by Béla Tomka
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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Chapter 1: Trends in research on state socialist globalization: the old and the new mainstream -- Chapter 2: Reconsidering cross-border interactions: balancing the scales -- Chapter 3: How to conceptualize state socialist globalization? -- Chapter 4: The role of 1989: dedramatization at its extreme? -- Chapter 5: Conclusions: limitations of the old and new mainstream narratives.
Sommario/riassunto	This open access Palgrave Pivot explores four major aspects of globalization: foreign trade, capital and information flows, and the movement of people. The book examines how the state socialist

countries of East Central Europe fit into the general trend of globalization after WWII. It focuses on three specific countries in the region: Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. The study also considers conceptual problems: whether recently introduced terms such as 'alternative globalization' and 'socialist proto-globalization' are plausible for interpreting state socialist globalization. Special attention is paid to the study of continuities and discontinuities in the process of globalization in East Central Europe, which is a key issue in current debates. This requires a long-term perspective, so the study covers not only the decades before 1989 but also subsequent developments. In doing so, the book attempts to find a balance between old and new mainstream interpretations: it recognises that East Central European societies experienced considerable globalization during the state socialist era; however, based on empirical findings, instead of 'alternative' or 'proto-' globalization, the book suggests other notions to conceptualize this process, including fragmentation, selectivity, and unevenness. Thus, the proposed understanding could also contribute to discussions on globalization beyond East Central Europe. Béla Tomka is a professor of Contemporary Social and Economic History at the University of Szeged, Hungary. He is the author of 16 books including *Welfare in East and West* (2004), *A Social History of Twentieth-Century Europe* (2013, winner of 'Outstanding Academic Title 2013 Award' by Choice, American Library Association), *Austerities and Aspirations: A Comparative History of Growth, Consumption and Quality of Life in East Central Europe since 1945* (2020), and the editor of several other volumes. He is the head of the Department of Contemporary History, University of Szeged, co-founder and board member of the International Social History Association, Amsterdam, as well as leader of the History of Globalization Research Group, Budapest-Szeged, established by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
