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Sommario/riassunto

Why do leaders sometimes challenge, rather than accept, the international structures that surround their states? In *The International Ambitions of Mao and Nehru*, Andrew Kennedy answers this question through in-depth studies of Chinese foreign policy under Mao Zedong and Indian foreign policy under Jawaharlal Nehru. Drawing on international relations theory and psychological research, Kennedy offers a new theoretical explanation for bold leadership in foreign policy, one that stresses the beliefs that leaders develop about the 'national efficacy' of their states. He shows how this approach illuminates several of Mao and Nehru's most important military and diplomatic decisions, drawing on archival evidence and primary source materials from China, India, the United States and the United Kingdom. A rare blend of theoretical innovation and historical scholarship, *The International Ambitions of Mao and Nehru* is a fascinating portrait of how foreign policy decisions are made.