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Nota di contenuto	Maps of Illustrations -- Preface to the First Edition -- Preface to the Second Edition -- PART 1 FIRST NATIONS DEFINED -- What Is a First Nation? -- Two Kinds of First Nations People -- Population, Reserves, Settlements, and Lands -- Bands, Ethnic Groups, Tribal Councils, and Other Affiliations -- PART 2 ARCHAEOLOGY AND FIRST PEOPLES -- First Nations and Archaeological Perceptions of the Past -- The Nature of Archaeological Research in British Columbia -- Early Migrations through British Columbia -- Here to Stay -- Settling Down -- Prominent Sites -- Tracing Ancestry -- -- PART 3 ETHNOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL LIFEWAYS -- Anthropology and Oral Tradition -- Traditional Culture Areas of British Columbia -- Languages -- Population -- Settlement Patterns -- Diet -- Technology -- Social Organization -- Myths, Spirits, and Shamans -- Health and Healing -- Art -- The Potlatch and Other Important Ceremonies -- Trade, Slavery, and Warfare -- PART 4 FIRST NATIONS IN RECENT AND CONTEMPORARY TIMES -- Population Loss -- The Impact of the Fur

Trade -- The Impact of the Gold Rushes -- The Impact of Non-Native Settlement -- Missionaries and Residential Schools -- First Nations and Wage Labour -- Government Relations with First Nations -- Assertions of Aboriginal Rights -- Negotiations in the 1990s and Early Twenty-First Century -- Economic and Cultural Initiatives -- Asserting Identity through Art -- Outstanding Issues -- APPENDICES -- 1. The First Nations of British Columbia -- 2 Major Ethic Groups -- 3 Excerpts from the Royal Proclamation, 1763 -- Excerpts from the Laurier Memorial, 1910 -- Highlights from the Nisga'a Final Agreement, 2000 -- First Nations Involved in Treaty Negotiations, 2006 -- Glossary -- Select Bibliography.

Sommario/riassunto

In British Columbia there is general agreement that "First Nations" refers to groups of people who can trace their ancestry to the populations which occupied the land prior to the arrival of Europeans and Americans in the late 1700s. The First Nations of British Columbia presents a concise and accessible overview of First Nations' peoples, cultures, and issues in the province. Its primary purpose is to provide an understanding of today's pertinent concerns and initiatives by familiarizing readers with the history, diversity, and complexity of First Nations. It does so from an anthropological perspective from which crucial archaeological ethnographic, historic, and legal-political issues are explored. This wide-ranging book begins with a description of the first Nations today, including information on populations, settlements, territories, bands, and other affiliations. The following sections focus on prehistory, traditional lifeways and cultural change over the past few hundred years. The impact of the fur trade, gold rushes, European and American settlement, missionaries, residential schools, and governments are all covered. Assertions of aboriginal rights and the current treaty negotiation process are also discussed. The First Nations of British Columbia is an indispensable resource for both educators and students, and an excellent introduction for anyone interested in the peoples and issues of B.C.'s First Nations.
