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Sommario/riassunto	Viewed from the perspective of Whitehall, Persia was a crossroads where Britain's European and Indian interests met. Control of Persia by any European power was bound to jeopardize the security of British India. A threat to India could in turn be used as a lever to upset the balance of power in Europe. To forestall this danger, Britain tried various policies. At first London and India hesitantly experimented with the policy of bringing Persia into the British sphere of influence either by contracting an alliance with her or by turning her into a protectorate. Persia's crushing defeat in the war with Russia