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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Title; Copyright; Contents; Introduction; PART 1; 1 The original federation; 2 Daniel J. Elazar's covenantal interpretation of American federalism; 3 The roots of the Soviet federation; PART 2; 4 The American federation and secession; 5 Conflicting perspectives on the dissolubility of the American Union; 6 Secession as a constitutional right in the USSR; PART 3; 7 A constitutional comparison between the Soviet and emerging Western models of multinational federalism; 8 On the integrative effects of federalism and consociation; 9 The Soviet Union and nation; PART 4 10 The Soviet state as viewed by nationalists11 Imperial contiguity and Russia's 'stunted nationhood'; 12 Was the Soviet Union the 'last empire'?; Concluding discussion; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Soviet Union is often characterised as nominally a federation, but really an empire, liable to break up when individual federal units, which were allegedly really subordinate colonial units, sought independence. This book questions this interpretation, revisiting the theory of federation, and discussing actual examples of federations such as the United States, arguing that many federal unions, including the United States, are really centralised polities. It also discusses the nature of empires, nations and how they relate to nation states and empires, and the right of secession, highlig