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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 162-168) and index.
Nota di contenuto	The saint : beginnings -- The bureaucratization of sanctity -- Reformations Catholic and Protestant -- Towards the modern world -- The twentieth century -- The saints, world religions, and the future.
Sommario/riassunto	A Brief History of Saints follows the rise of the cult of saints in Christianity from its origin in the age of the martyrs down to the present day.Refers to both well-known saints, such as Joan of Arc, and lesser-known figures like the 'holy fools' in the Orthodox traditionRanges over subjects as diverse as the history of canonization processes, the Reformation critique of the cult of saints, and the role of saints in other religious traditionsDiscusses the relevance of sainthood in the postmodern eraTwo appendices describe patron s