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Nota di contenuto	The honours system in late Tudor and early Stuart England -- Heralds and earl marshals in late Tudor England -- The inflation of honours in early Stuart England -- Charles I and the defence of aristocracy, 1625-1639 -- 'Ancient nobility' -- The aristocracy and the royal court -- Reform of the aristocracy -- The Order of the Garter -- The Court of Chivalry -- The reform of the Court of Chivalry -- Heralds and the court of chivalry -- The aristocracy and the Bishops' Wars, 1639-1640 -- The first Bishops War and the military mobilization of the peerage -- The great council of peers -- The aristocracy and the outbreak of civil war, 1640-1642 -- The Long Parliament -- The formation of the Royalist Party -- The Royalist Party and the outbreak of civil war.
Sommario/riassunto	This is a major study of Charles I's relationship with the English aristocracy. Rejecting the traditional emphasis on the 'Crisis of the Aristocracy', Professor Richard Cust highlights instead the effectiveness of the King and the Earl of Arundel's policies to promote and

strengthen the nobility. He reveals how the peers reasserted themselves as the natural leaders of the political nation during the Great Council of Peers in 1640 and the Long Parliament. He also demonstrates how Charles deliberately set out to cultivate his aristocracy as the main bulwark of royal authority, enabling him to go to war against the Scots in 1639 and then build the royalist party which provided the means to fight parliament in 1642. The analysis is framed throughout within a broader study of aristocratic honour and the efforts of the heralds to stabilise the social order.
