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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Table of Contents -- Foreword -- Introduction: The Historical Difficulties of Regional Cooperation in a Space Where My Hero is Your Enemy -- The foolish dream of a clean slate? A common past acting as both a burden and an inspiration. What to do with borders and with minorities? -- What Does It Take to Become a Hero: Perspectives of Cultural Sociology and Political Science -- The Legacy of Central Europe 1918-1945 -- Historical Consciousness in the Visegrád Four -- History of Modern Central Europe, Anthropology, and Theory of Mimetic Rivalry -- My Enemy-The Best Opportunity to Build One's Own Identity. Carl Schmitt Again. -- Civic and ethnic nationalism and the identity formation of Central European societies in the interwar period -- A Heritage of Historic Hungary-Remembrance and Revisionism as an Approach to Hungarian Nation Building in the Inter-war Period -- From Myths to Reality: the Regionalism of Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky (1886-1944) -- Štefánik's Death and the Czecho(Slovak) Identity -- Kamil Krofta and Czechoslovak Identity among Czechs, Slovaks and Germans and Others -- New States-Old-new elements of nationalism in caricatures (1919-1921) -- Jozef Tiso: My Enemy-Your Hero? -- Jozef

Tiso, Patriot or Traitor? A Slovak Debate That Has Been Carried on from the Second World War to the Present Day -- Welcoming the Admiral on a White Horse: The Depictions of the Horthy Regime in Slovak Historical Culture -- Changing Images of Miklós Horthy -- Edvard Beneš and His Image: 'Hero or Villain'? -- Freemason, Coward, Russophile, Schemer: Edvard Beneš in the Eyes of the Poles, 1918-45 -- 'A Wasted Year': Władysław Gomułka and 1956 -- Imre Nagy-Hero or Victim? -- Alexander Dubek, the Best-known Slovak Politician -- Alexander Dubek, a Czechoslovak Politician -- 'Havel on Wawel!' or a Prophet is Not without Honour, but in His Own Country. Wasa's Absence from Czech Society -- Summary: Factors Driving Nation Building Processes after 1918 and Their Implications -- Persons who became myths -- How to teach history today? -- What is the role of history in contemporary political discourses? -- How to ask about the V4 identity from historical and contemporary point of view? -- Bibliography -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

This volume compares different regional perspectives on the national and democracy-building aims of individual states. It confronts discourses about national states to regional perspectives on the past as well as the current political and social landscape. Why are we observing calls for national identity right now? What are the roots of this development? How can a Central European identity be shaped when national perspectives are prevalent? The book's first part analyses social and political processes that shaped nation-states in the Central European region and shows divergent trends of individual states when it comes to defining a regional approach of the Visegrád Group (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary = V4). The second part focuses on key personalities of the 20th century history of individual V4 countries in the light of their perception in the neighbouring states and how they shaped national states as well as identities after the end of World War II. Similar aims and approaches implemented by individual countries often led to anything but raising regional understanding. The book's third part reflects upon activities of various initiatives aiming to approach this challenge from the perspective of civil society, and Central Europe's young generation. The collection brings together leading historians of Central Europe from the V4 countries. It also offers external perspectives on historical developments in Central Europe from the perspective of the 21st century and on political cooperation as well as its roots. Lastly, it includes practitioners of Central European cooperation from both academia and civil society, and their reflection on their countries' political cooperation after 1989. "The evenhanded and factual character of the contributions presented in this book shows the right way to deal with history, no matter how complicated. It is an example worth emulating."—Petr Vágnér, former director of International Visegrad Fund
