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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [551]-587) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Basil's reign in modern and medieval historical literature -- Basil II and John Skylitzes : the historian's career and working methods -- Basil II and the testimony of John Skylitzes : textual analysis -- Basil II and the testimony of John Skylitzes : contexts -- The revolts of Skleros and Phokas : historiography and the Skleros Manifesto -- Administration and Imperial authority on the eastern frontier -- Administration and Imperial authority on Byzantium's western frontiers -- The reign of Basil II : a reconstruction.
Sommario/riassunto	This is a study of the Byzantine emperor Basil II, the 'Bulgar-slayer'. Holmes peels away the layers of later interpretations to reveal an empire that was governed by a potent mixture of subtle persuasion and brute force.