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Despite the accuracy of the critiques of the international "competence education and testing movement," which promote narrow approaches to education based on delivering and testing prepackaged knowledge in simplistic and practically ineffective models of competence, *Competence in the Learning Society* shows that the development of a better framework for thinking about the nature, development, release, and assessment of competence is vital. It explores the kinds of competence that are needed if our society is to survive the impending environmental and social collapse. *Competence in the Learning Society* makes a case for a renewed understanding of competence which is not only about doing a job effectively, but ensuring the job is making an effective contribution by going beyond its boundaries and influencing the system in which it operates. This book also describes the kind of educational and societal systems that are needed to develop and nurture high-level competence.