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2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910554203503321
Autore	Schuler Paul <1979->
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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- One The Signaling Trap Why Single-Party Legislatures Must Be Controlled -- Two How Elections Work in Vietnam -- Three "Unconditional Party Government" Legislative Organization in the VNA -- Four Explaining the Evolution of the VNA -- Five Mobilized or Motivated? Voting Behavior in Vietnamese Elections -- Six Explaining Oversight Behavior Position Taking or Position Ducking? -- Seven Intimidation or Legitimation? The Signaling Value of the VNA -- Conclusion Curbing Our Expectations for the VNA, Single-Party Legislatures -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Conventional wisdom emerging from China and other autocracies claims that single-party legislatures and elections are mutually beneficial for citizens and autocrats. This line of thought reasons that these institutions can serve multiple functions, like constraining political leaders or providing information about citizens. In United Front, Paul Schuler challenges these views through his examination of the past and present functioning of the Vietnam National Assembly (VNA), arguing that the legislature's primary role is to signal strength to the public. When active, the critical behavior from delegates in the legislature represents cross fire within the regime rather than genuine

citizen feedback. In making these arguments, Schuler counters a growing scholarly trend to see democratic institutions within single-party settings like China and Vietnam as useful for citizens or regime performance. His argument also suggests that there are limits to generating genuinely "consultative authoritarianism" through quasi-democratic institutions. Applying a diverse range of cutting-edge social science methods on a wealth of original data such as legislative speeches, election returns, and surveys, Schuler shows that even in a seemingly vociferous legislature like the VNA, the ultimate purpose of the institution is not to reflect the views of citizens, but rather to signal the regime's preferences while taking down rivals.
