

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910154299903321
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Titolo	Asymmetric politics : ideological Republicans and group interest Democrats / / Matt Grossmann and David A. Hopkins [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : Oxford University Press, , 2016
ISBN	0-19-063056-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : illustrations (black and white)
Disciplina	324.273
Soggetti	Party affiliation - United States Political culture - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 2016.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Sommario/riassunto	The Democratic Party is a coalition of social groups that act as discrete voting blocs for candidates, constituencies for group leaders, and demanders of particular policy commitments. Since the 1960s, the evolution in the relative internal influence of Democratic Party constituencies has reduced the size of the party's conservative wing and expanded its policy agenda - but no organized liberal movement has emerged to dominate its internal organization or succeed in shifting its policies toward leftist positions. The Republican Party, in contrast, serves as the vehicle of a conservative ideological movement that has succeeded in fusing its intellectual strands, marketing its broad critiques of government, building a supportive organizational network, and moving the party toward the policy commitments of its right wing.