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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Freedom, associations, and uniformity -- Two approaches -- Reunderstanding intermediate groups -- Antecedents and foundations -- The ancient constitution, the social contract, and the modern state -- Montesquieu and Voltaire, philosophes and parlements -- The age of revolutions -- Centralization in a democratic age : Tocqueville and Mill -- From liberal constitutionalism to pluralism -- The constitution of group life -- Associations are not states -- ; Conclusion: Against synthesis.
Sommario/riassunto	This title offers an original account of the history of liberal thought, one grounded in an institutional history of medieval pluralism and the early modern rationalising state, and explores the deep tensions that liberal political thought rests upon.