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Nota di contenuto

1. Introduction: Democracy and Globalization -- 2. EU Democracy Assistance: Continuity and Conceptual Changes -- 3. EU Concepts of Democracy and Civil Society -- 4. The World Social Forum and Approaches to Global Civil Society -- 5. A Neo-Gramscian Reading of Global Civil Society and the World Social Forum -- 6. Meeting Democracy: Organizational Structures and Models of Democracy in the World Social Forum -- 7. Partial Organization and the Quest for Democracy: The International Council of the World Social Forum -- 8. Towards a Conclusion: Globalization Processes and the 'Crisis of Democracy'.

Sommario/riassunto

Seeking to extend the debate on the diversity of democracy, this book provides the reader with a comprehensive account of how two different global actors, the European Union and the World Social Forum respond to the challenges of globalization with various models of democracy and modes of cooperation at the transnational level. Analysing EU democracy assistance in the EU's neighbourhood, Fiedlschuster sheds light on the complex relationship between the EU and civil society. Although the EU perceives a vital civil society as crucial for democracy, its mix of a governance approach with deliberative and participatory democracy will unlikely result in a citizen-centred democracy. The book also provides a compelling account of the World Social Forum and its participants interviewed for this work attempt to answer one of the challenges of contemporary globalization: How can civil society pursue democratically global social change? Fiedlschuster skilfully deploys various sociological approaches not only to analyse concepts and practices of democracy by transnational activists but also to throw light on the tensions between democratic idealism and anti-democratic tendencies in the Forum. This book will be of wide interest to students and academics, including those working within political sociology, European Union politics, and globalization. .