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Sommario/riassunto	This book is a documentary history of the rights found in the American state constitutions adopted between 1776 and 1790. Despite the rich tradition of rights at the state level, rights in America have been identified almost exclusively with the national Bill of Rights. Indeed, there is no work that provides a comprehensive treatment of the early state declarations of rights. Rather, these declarations have been viewed as halting first steps towards the adoption of the national Bill of Rights in 1791. Bringing together the full text of the rights provisions from the 13 original states and Vermont, this book presents America's

first tradition of rights on its own terms and as part of this country's heritage of rights. Early chapters will examine the sources of these rights and provide a comparative framework. An introduction to each chapter will review that state's colonial history, focusing on any charters or legislation related to rights protections that help explain its constitutional provisions. This work will make it possible for students, scholars, and interested citizens to rediscover the first fruits of the American Revolution. Peter J. Galie is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Canisius College in Buffalo in New York, USA Christopher Bopst is Special Counsel at Wilder & Linneball, LLP in Buffalo in New York, USA Bethany R. Kirschner is an Associate at Woehrle Dahlberg Jones Yao PLLC in Fredericksburg in Virginia, USA.
