

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450175103321
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Titolo	Can good economics ever be good politics? [[electronic resource] ] : case study of India's power sector // Sumir Lal
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC, : World Bank, 2006
ISBN	1-280-50356-4 9786610503568 0-8213-6681-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (38 p.)
Collana	World Bank working paper ; ; no. 83
Disciplina	333.793/20954
Soggetti	Energy policy - India Energy industries - Deregulation - India Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Foreword; Introduction; Power Reform in India: Issues, erceptions, and Players; Politics in India: Form and Substance; The Politics of Reform: Style and Strategy; Prospects for the Power Sector; Conclusions and Lessons Going Forward; References
Sommario/riassunto	In recent years, the power sector in several developing countries has suffered from a frustrating gap between strong, pro-reform rhetoric at the political level, and weak, hesitant implementation of the reform measures on the ground. Focusing on the recent experience of power sector reform in India, this paper looks afresh at the problem of the "rhetoric-implementation gap" by taking the lack of political will as its starting point, and identifying the ingredients that comprise it in the current context of India. Assuming that people and institutions are not impartial but instead respond to po