

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450669603321
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Titolo	The Czech Republic : a nation of velvet / / Rick Fawn
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam, The Netherlands : , : Harwood Academic, , 2000
ISBN	1-135-28730-9 1-280-05562-6 0-203-64354-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (193 p.)
Collana	Postcommunist states and nations
Disciplina	943.7105
Soggetti	Electronic books. Czech Republic History Czech Republic Politics and government 1993-
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 (p. 167-168) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: 1 The Legacies of History: From the Foundation to the -- Velvet Revolution and the Velvet Divorce -- 2 Framing Velvet: The Institutional Arena and Rules of -- the Game in Czech Politics -- 3 Patchwork Velvet: The Burst Bubble of the Czech -- Economic Transformation -- 4 Exporting Velvet: The Czech Republic's Foreign Policy -- 5 A Nation of Velvet? Towards a New Czech National -- Identity.
Sommario/riassunto	Czechoslovakia has captured the nation's imagination throughout the twentieth century. The Allied betrayal of the country to Nazi Germany in 1938 was to demonstrate the appalling consequences of naive appeasement of aggression. The wholesale reform of Soviet communism in the Prague Spring of 1968 won western support, and sympathy when it was crushed by Warsaw Pact tanks. The fierce communist regime thereafter was brought down almost magically in 1989. Czechoslovakia added to the international political vocabulary the term, 'Velvet Revolution', and the velvet metaphor has characterised much of...