

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450932103321
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Titolo	The founding of Israeli democracy, 1948-1967 [[electronic resource] /] / Peter Y. Medding
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, N.Y., : Oxford University Press, c1990
ISBN	1-280-52358-1 0-19-536354-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (264 p.)
Disciplina	320.95694
Soggetti	Electronic books. Israel History Israel Politics and government
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliography and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; 1. The Structures of Democratic Government; 2. Founding an Independent State; 3. Founding Democratic Political Structures; 4. Parties and Policies; 5. Issue Structure, Electoral Response, and Coalition Politics; 6. Coalition Cabinets, Party Government, and the Control of Policy-Making; 7. Mamlakhtiut: Partisan Interests and the Establishment of Centralized and Legitimate State Public Authority; 8. The Political Dynamics of the Founding Period; 9. Conclusion; Appendix A; Appendix B; Select Bibliography; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y; Z
Sommario/riassunto	This study of the politics of the state of Israel in the first two decades of its existence addresses the question of how it has managed to remain a democracy despite all the adverse conditions.