

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455459203321
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Titolo	The social democratic moment [[electronic resource] ] : ideas and politics in the making of interwar Europe // Sheri Berman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 1998
ISBN	0-674-02084-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (321 p.)
Disciplina	320.5/315/094/09041
Soggetti	Socialism - Sweden - History - 20th century Socialism - Germany - History - 20th century Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Based on author's dissertation, Harvard University.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 233-299) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- CHAPTER 1 Reexamining Interwar Social Democracy -- CHAPTER 2 Evaluating the Role of Ideas -- CHAPTER 3 Sweden's Political Development and the Programmatic Beliefs of the SAP -- CHAPTER 4 Germany's Political Development and the Programmatic Beliefs of the SPD -- CHAPTER 5 Sweden's Path to Democracy -- CHAPTER 6 Germany's Path to Democracy -- CHAPTER 7 The Origins of Social Democratic Hegemony -- CHAPTER 8 The Collapse of German Democracy -- CHAPTER 9 Understanding Interwar Social Democracy -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In addition to revising our view of the interwar period and the building of European democracies, this book cuts against the grain of most current theorizing in political science by explicitly discussing when and how ideas influence political behavior. Even though German and Swedish Social Democrats belonged to the same transnational political movement and faced similar political and social conditions in their respective countries before and after World War I, they responded very differently to the challenges of democratization and the Great Depression--with crucial consequences for the fates of their countries and the world at large. Explaining why these two social democratic parties acted so differently is the primary task of this book. Berman's answer is that they had very different ideas about politics and

economics--what she calls their programmatic beliefs. The Swedish Social Democrats placed themselves at the forefront of the drive for democratization; a decade later they responded to the Depression with a bold new economic program and used it to build a long period of political hegemony. The German Social Democrats, on the other hand, had democracy thrust upon them and then dithered when faced with economic crisis; their haplessness cleared the way for a bolder and more skillful political actor--Adolf Hitler. This provocative book will be of interest to anyone concerned with twentieth-century European history, the transition to democracy problem, or the role of ideas in politics.

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