

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456388403321
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Titolo	Why Canadian unity matters and why Americans care : democratic pluralism at risk // Charles F. Doran
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, [Ontario] ; ; Buffalo, [New York] ; ; London, [England] : , : University of Toronto Press, , 2001 ©2001
ISBN	1-282-03396-4 9786612033964 1-4426-8347-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (317 p.)
Disciplina	971.4/04
Soggetti	Secession - Quebec (Province) Cultural pluralism - Canada Public opinion - United States Electronic books. Quebec (Province) History Autonomy and independence movements Canada Foreign public opinion, American
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- 1. Challenges to Democratic Pluralism -- 2. A U.S. Perspective on Canadian Unity -- 3. Will Quebec Secede? -- 4. Could English Canada Unravel? -- 5. Is Separatism Home-Grown or the Result of Contagion? -- 6. Is Small Size a Stimulus or Obstacle to Separatism? -- 7. What Kind of Canada in the Twenty-First Century? -- 8. Self-Determination and Democratic Pluralism -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Why is Canadian unity important to democratic pluralism worldwide? Democratic pluralism is the ability of different cultural and language communities to find representation under a single set of democratic institutions, however configured. Although traditional liberal arguments at best ignored culture, in practise, out of a long struggle to eliminate gargantuan prejudices, errors and wrongs, the liberal tradition has created in democratic pluralism a dialectic of culture and liberal politics

that resolves the theoretical conundrums so dear to both. Canadian democracy is a monument to success in its capacity to provide dignity, freedom, opportunity, and prosperity to its citizens throughout the polity. Secession, if it takes place in Quebec, puts these achievements at risk, raising the spectre that cultural-linguistic norms, not a mature liberal democracy, will fashion the kind of state that future generations will inherit. Charles Doran examines why Canadian unity is important, what drives Quebec separatism in the American view, the concern that after Quebec succession the rest of Canada could unravel, and the nature of the historical era that has shaped and conditioned secessionist impulse.
