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Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: populist idylls, cultural politics -- The problem with the meritocracy -- Ordinary Americans, average students -- The curious cult of religious practicality -- Against all experts: no experience necessary -- The new age of cultural studies: crisis in the PMC -- Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	A trenchant critique of failure and opportunism across the political spectrum, American Idyll argues that social mobility, once a revered hallmark of American society, has ebbed, as higher education has become a mechanistic process for efficient sorting that has more to do with class formation than anything else. Academic freedom and aesthetic education are reserved for high-scoring, privileged students and vocational education is the only option for economically marginal ones. Throughout most of American history, antielitist sentiment was reserved for attacks against the upper classes and the wealthy.