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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Friends unseen : the ballad of political dependency -- Hungry for protection : the Confederate roots of dependence -- Slaves and the great deliverer : freedom and friendship behind Union lines -- Vulnerable at the circumference : demobilization and the limitations of the Freedmen's Bureau -- The great day of a counter : democracy and the problem of power in Republican Reconstruction -- The persistence of prayer : dependency after redemption -- Crazes, fetishes, and enthusiasms : the silver mania and the making of a new politics -- A compressive age : White supremacy and the growth of the modern state

-- Coda: Desperate times call for distant friends : Franklin Roosevelt as the last good king?.

Sommario/riassunto

In this highly original study, Gregory Downs argues that the most American of wars, the Civil War, created a seemingly un-American popular politics, rooted not in independence but in voluntary claims of dependence. Through an examination of the pleas and petitions of ordinary North Carolinians, *Declarations of Dependence* contends that the Civil War redirected, not destroyed, claims of dependence by exposing North Carolinians to the expansive but unsystematic power of Union and Confederate governments, and by loosening the legal ties that bound them to husbands, fathers, and masters.
