Record Nr.	UNINA9910458556803321
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Titolo	Competition policy in America, 1888-1992 : history, rhetoric, law / / Rudolph J. R. Peritz
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, New York ; ; Oxford, [England] : , : Oxford University Press, , 1996 ©1996
ISBN	1-280-44154-2 0-19-536066-4 1-60129-873-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (385 p.)
Disciplina	343.73/0721
Soggetti	Antitrust law - United States - History
	Competition - United States - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 305-364) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; 1. Public Debate About Competition Policy, 1888-1911: Free Competition and Freedom of Contract; 2. The Era of Cooperative Competition, 1911-1933: Trade and Labor Associations, Political Majorities, and Speech Rights; 3. The New Deal's Political Economy, 1933-1948: From Organic Body Politic to Unified Body Economic; 4. Competition, Pluralism, and the Problem of Persistent Oligarchy, 1948-1967; 5. Rhetorics of Free Competition, 1968-1980: Efficiency, Property Rights, and Equality 6. Rhetorics of Free Competition, 1980-1992: Free Market Imagery, Corporate Control, and the Problem of Equality Concluding Thoughts: On the Limits of Competition Policy; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this work, Peritz analyses how free competition has signified both freedom from oppressive government and freedom from private economic power. Peritz shows how these two complex yet distinct and sometimes contradictory images have influenced government policy and continue to inspire public debate over political economy in America.