

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910459209903321
Autore	Smith Mark A (Mark Alan), <1970->
Titolo	American business and political power [[electronic resource]] : public opinion, elections, and democracy // Mark A. Smith
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, c2000
ISBN	1-282-67931-7 9786612679315 0-226-76465-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (259 p.)
Collana	Studies in communication, media, and public opinion
Disciplina	322/.3/0973
Soggetti	Business and politics - United States Public opinion - United States Power (Social sciences) - United States Pressure groups - United States Lobbying - United States Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 223-235) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Business unity and its consequences for representative democracy -- Identifying business unity -- A portrait of unifying issues -- Public opinion, elections, and lawmaking -- Overt sources of business power -- Structural sources of business power -- The role of business in shaping public opinion -- The compatibility of business unity and popular sovereignty.
Sommario/riassunto	Most people believe that large corporations wield enormous political power when they lobby for policies as a cohesive bloc. With this controversial book, Mark A. Smith sets conventional wisdom on its head. In a systematic analysis of postwar lawmaking, Smith reveals that business loses in legislative battles unless it has public backing. This surprising conclusion holds because the types of issues that lead businesses to band together-such as tax rates, air pollution, and product liability-also receive the most media attention. The ensuing debates give citizens the information they need to hold their representatives accountable and make elections a choice between

contrasting policy programs. Rather than succumbing to corporate America, Smith argues, representatives paradoxically become more responsive to their constituents when facing a united corporate front. Corporations gain the most influence over legislation when they work with organizations such as think tanks to shape Americans' beliefs about what government should and should not do.
