

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460063503321
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Titolo	The rise of the federal colossus [[electronic resource]] : the growth of federal power from Lincoln to F.D.R. // Peter Zavodnyik
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Santa Barbara, Calif., : Praeger, c2011
ISBN	1-283-05335-7 9786613053350 0-313-39294-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (566 p.)
Collana	Praeger series on American political culture
Disciplina	320.473/04909034
Soggetti	Federal government - United States - History Constitutional history - United States Electronic books. United States Politics and government 1865-1933
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. [505]-511) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Contents; Series Foreword; Introduction; Chapter 1 Federalism and War, 1861-1865; Chapter 2 The Constitution Obscured, 1865-1877; Chapter 3 Federalism in the Gilded Age, 1877-1901; Chapter 4 The Progressive Era and American Federalism, 1901-1921; Chapter 5 Places at the Trough, 1921-1933; Notes; Select Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Federal officials contemplated providing jobs to the unemployed as early as the 1870s, while the origins of federal regulation of interstate railroads go back to the Civil War. How and when did the federal government expand the scope of the powers granted to it by the Constitution and evolve into an entity that plays such an enormous role in the lives of ordinary Americans?