

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462304903321
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Titolo	Ethnic struggle, coexistence, and democratization in Eastern Europe // Sherrill Stroschein [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012
ISBN	1-107-22729-1 1-139-41130-6 1-280-68290-6 9786613659842 1-139-42266-9 0-511-79376-6 1-139-41964-1 1-139-42169-7 1-139-41759-2 1-139-42373-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxiv, 289 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in contentious politics
Disciplina	320.947
Soggetti	Democratization - Europe, Eastern Ethnic groups - Political activity - Europe, Eastern Minorities - Political activity - Europe, Eastern Europe, Eastern Ethnic relations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Ethnic protest, moderation, and democratization -- 2. Time, process, and events in democratization -- 3. Ethnic contention in context -- 4. Local violence and uncertainty in Targul Mures, 1990 -- 5. The power of symbols: Romanians, Hungarians, and King Mathias in Cluj -- 6. Forging language laws: schools and sign wars -- 7. Debating local governance: autonomy, local control, and minority enclaves -- 8. Implications of group interaction.
Sommario/riassunto	In societies divided on ethnic and religious lines, problems of democracy are magnified - particularly where groups are mobilized into parties. With the principle of majority rule, minorities should be

less willing to endorse democratic institutions where their parties persistently lose elections. While such problems should also hamper transitions to democracy, several diverse Eastern European states have formed democracies even under these conditions. In this book, Sherrill Stroschein argues that sustained protest and contention by ethnic Hungarians in Romania and Slovakia brought concessions on policies that they could not achieve through the ballot box, in contrast to Transcarpathia, Ukraine. In Romania and Slovakia, contention during the 1990s made each group accustomed to each other's claims and aware of the degree to which each could push its own. Ethnic contention became a de facto deliberative process that fostered a moderation of group stances, allowing democratic consolidation to slowly and organically take root.
