1. Record Nr. UNINA9910462956803321 Autore Higgs Robert **Titolo** Crisis and Leviathan [[electronic resource]]: critical episodes in the growth of American government / / Robert Higgs; with a new preface by the author; foreword by Arthur A. Ekirch Oakland, Calif., : Independent Institute, 2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-59813-113-3 Edizione [25th anniversary ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (386 p.) Collana Independent studies in political economy Crisis and leviathan Disciplina 320.973 Soggetti Administrative agencies - United States - History Bureaucracy - United States - History Welfare state - United States - History Ideology - United States - History Electronic books. United States Politics and government 19th century United States Politics and government 20th century 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 and index. Nota di contenuto Cover; Part I. Framework; 1. The Sources of Big Government: A Critical Survey of Hypotheses; Explanations of the Growth of Government; Modernization; Public Goods; The Welfare State; Political Redistribution; Ideology; Crisis; Conclusions; 2. How much has Government Grown?: Conventional Measures and an Alternative View; Conventional Measures of the Growth of Government; The Essence of Big Government: An Alternative View: Ratchets: Conventional Measures versus Fundamentals: Conclusions: 3. On Ideology as an Analytical Concept in the Study of Political Economy; What is Ideology? Ideology and Political Action Ideology in Analysis; Ideology and Rhetoric; Ideology: Exogenous or Endogenous?; Conclusions; 4. Crisis, Bigger Government, and Ideological Change: Toward an Understanding of the Ratchet; A Schematic View of the Problem; Why Stage II?: A Cost-Concealment Hypothesis; Why Stage IV?: A (Partial) Hypothesis on

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## Sommario/riassunto

Discussing how government has continually grown in size and scope during the past century, this account demonstrates that the main reason lies in government's responses to national "crises" (real or imagined), including economic upheavals and, especially, war. The result, this book argues, is the ever-increasing government power, which endures long after each crisis has passed, impinging on both civil and economic liberties and fostering extensive corporate welfare. Offering ideological explanations for the ascension of the role of government...