

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463180803321
Autore	Hanovs Deniss
Titolo	Ultimate freedom-- no choice [[electronic resource] ] : the culture of authoritarianism in Latvia, 1934-1940 / / by Deniss Hanovs & Valdis Teraudkalns ; [translator, Laura Bleidere]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden, : Brill, 2013
ISBN	90-04-24464-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (282 p.)
Collana	Central and Eastern Europe : regional perspectives in global context, , 1877-8550 ; ; v. 2
Altri autori (Persone)	TeraudkalnsValdis BleidereLaura
Disciplina	947.9608/4
Soggetti	Authoritarianism - Latvia - History - 20th century Politics and culture - Latvia - History - 20th century Political culture - Latvia - History - 20th century Electronic books. Latvia History 1918-1940 Latvia Politics and government 1918-1940
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	Chapter one. The beginning : how was the coup presented back then? -- Inter-war Latvia : prehistory of the coup, its context -- Why the coup is not a coup, but salvation? -- Ulmanis in foreign media : the Times -- Chapter two. Genesis of a political myth : an official turns into Vadonis -- Chapter three. Staging Atdzimsanas Dziesma : technologies of authoritarianism cultural policy -- How does one stage the principle of authoritarianism? staging of a mass performance as a political program -- "Atdzimsanas Dziesma will invite every Latvian to serve his nation and country by obeying Vadonis" : what is the staging going to say? -- "Atdzimsanas Dziesma depicts the fate of the Latvian people : staging as a liturgy of authoritarianism, Vadonis as a priest and actor -- Chapter four. "Another land" : Latgale region in the discourse of Ulmanis' authoritarian regime on the unity of the nation -- Political performance as a staging of unanimity -- Latgale : the symbolic stepchild and bride -- Latgalians and ethnic unity -- Latgalians and

ethnic diversity : the other in the new political culture -- Answers of Latgale's media -- The education law and the technology of the melting pot -- Daugavpils Vienības Nams : a building as a political message -- Chapter five. The leader, the enemy, war and celebration : authoritarianism practices compared : Stalin and Ulmanis in Latvia's authoritarian culture -- USSR--the land of workers and violence : a dual perception -- Cultural practices of European dictatorships in the 30s -- Stalin and Ulmanis : a functional comparison of leaders -- The enemy : communism and the war of civilizations -- Moscow trials--the globalized political show of the 30s -- Chapter six. Date and place : a celebration of authoritarianism in Rēzekne and Riga -- "The harvest booster" : K. Ulmanis as a hero of cyclical time in Sveta Zeme spectacle -- 18 November as a continuation of 15 May : the course of celebration on 18 November 1938 -- Chapter seven. "New Riga" : the city as an instrument of authoritarian ideology -- Aesthetization of Ulmanis' ideology : key tendencies and international context -- Ulmanis Riga -- The Uzvaras laukums : a spatial self-reference -- Chapter eight. Authoritarianism and the Church : attempts to develop Latvian Christianity in 1920s and 1930s -- The relationship policy between the Church and the state under Ulmanis' regime -- The Church : in supranational content and national form -- Ideas expressed by the radical wing of Latvianizers of the Church -- Conclusion.

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### Sommario/riassunto

The Republic of Latvia is a fascinating mirror of the development of European democratic culture and reflects both the rise of democracy in Eastern Europe after the end of World War I and its deterioration into authoritarianism in the early 1930's. The regime, which lasted for only six years (1934-1940), was shaped by the controversial figure of Prime Minister and Leader of the People (Vadonis) Karlis Ulmanis. This new, archive-based study illustrates the development of authoritarianism in the region, shows controversies and similarities and places the regime's leader in the international context of European authoritarian culture. The book shows how mass culture and technologies, ancient drama and European modernism were combined to reinforce the idea of legitimacy of a new non-democratic regime.

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