1. Record Nr. UNINA9910463475903321 Autore Leon Cedric de **Titolo** The origins of right to work: antilabor democracy in nineteenthcentury Chicago / / Cedric de Leon Ithaca:,: ILR Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press,, 2015 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-8014-5587-1 0-8014-7958-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (185 pages): illustrations Disciplina 331.88/92097731109034 Soggetti Open and closed shop - Illinois - Chicago - History - 19th century Labor - Illinois - Chicago - History - 19th century Labor movement - Illinois - Chicago - History - 19th century Working class - Political activity - Illinois - Chicago - History - 19th Political parties - Illinois - Chicago - History - 19th century Electronic books. Chicago (III.) Politics and government 19th century Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Tracing the origins of the right to work -- The critique of wage dependency, 1828-1844 -- The political crisis over slavery and the rise of free labor, 1844-1860 -- The war years, or, The triumphs and reversals of free labor ideology, 1861-1865 -- Anti-labor democracy and the working class, 1865-1887 -- Epilogue: neoliberalism in the rustbelt. Sommario/riassunto "Right to work" states weaken collective bargaining rights and limit the ability of unions to effectively advocate on behalf of workers. As more and more states consider enacting right-to-work laws, observers trace the contemporary attack on organized labor to the 1980s and the Reagan era. In The Origins of Right to Work, however, Cedric de Leon contends that this antagonism began a century earlier with the Northern victory in the U.S. Civil War, when the political establishment revised the English common-law doctrine of conspiracy to equate

collective bargaining with the enslavement of free white men. In doing

so, de Leon connects past and present, raising critical questions that address pressing social issues. Drawing on the changing relationship between political parties and workers in nineteenth-century Chicago, de Leon concludes that if workers' collective rights are to be preserved in a global economy, workers must chart a course of political independence and overcome long-standing racial and ethnic divisions.