

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465615203321
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Titolo	Might, right, prosperity and consent [[electronic resource] ] : representative democracy and the international economy, 1919-2001 / Helen Thompson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Manchester, : Manchester University Press, c2008
ISBN	1-78170-160-1 1-84779-234-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (305 p.)
Disciplina	321.8
Soggetti	Representative government and representation - History Representative government and representation - Economic aspects Democracy - History - 20th century Democracy - Economic aspects Power (Social sciences) - History - 20th century Electronic books.
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	9780719077500; 9780719077500; COPYRIGHT; Contents; Preface; Introduction; 1 The modern democratic nation-state; 2 The crises of the inter-war years; 3 The Bretton Woods rescue; 4 Crises and non-crises: financial liberalisation and the end of the Cold War; 5 Conclusions; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This book offers an original analysis of the problem of the authority of the state in democracies. Unlike many discussions of democracy that treat authority as a problem primarily of domestic politics or normative values, this book puts the international economy at the centre of the analysis. This volume shows how changes in the international economy from the inter-war years to the end of the twentieth century impacted upon the success and failures of democracy. It makes the argument by considering a range of different cases, and it traces the success and failure of democracies over the past ce