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	Nota di contenuto	Front matter Contents Acknowledgments Contributors INTRODUCTORY ESSAY / Kagan, Robert A. / Garth, Bryant / Sarat, Austin PART I Citizenship, Rights, and Politics The Idea of Political Freedom / Fiss, Owen Instituting Universal Human Rights Law: THE INVENTION OF TRADITION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY / Minow, Martha Racial Justice: MORAL OR POLITICAL? / Thomas, Kendall PART II. Law and the Constitution of Selves and Society Visions of Self-Control: FASHIONING A LIBERAL APPROACH TO CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY / Simon, Jonathan Twentieth-Century Legal Metaphors for Self and Society / Binder, Guyora Citizenship, Agency, and the Dream of Time / Greenhouse, Carol J PART III. Regulatory Processes in Society and Economy The Rhetoric of Community: CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE LEGAL ORDER / Constable, Marianne Law and the Corporation / Keller, Morton The Legal Origins of the Modern American State / Novak, William J PART IV. Law, Lawyers, and the Marketing of Law The Legal Profession / Gordon, Robert W Professing Law: ELITE LAW SCHOOL PROFESSORS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY / Kalman, Laura The Twentieth-Century Discipline of International Law in the United States / Kennedy, David Index
	Sommario/riassunto	This book describes a century of tremendous legal change, of inspiring legal developments, and profound failures. The twentieth century took

the United States from the Progressive Era's optimism about law and social engineering to current concerns about a hyperlegalistic society, from philosophical idealism to the implementation of democracy, the rule of law, and the idea of human rights throughout the world. At the same time, law maintained its status as the key language of governance in the United States, the most "legal" of all countries, which has succeeded in making its version of the state a point of reference around the globe.