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Nota di contenuto	Cover -- Series Page -- Title Page -- Copyright Page -- Dedication -- Table of Contents -- Tables -- Kansas Open Books Foreword -- Introduction -- 1. What Is American Political Theory? -- The Status of the Discipline -- What Is American Political Theory? -- What Is American Political Theory? -- What Is American Political Theory? -- 2. American Political Texts and Their Analysis -- What Is a Text? -- Ideal, Complete, and Timeless Texts -- Assembled and Incomplete Political Texts -- Constitutional Texts and Political Behavior -- 3. Toward a Complete Text on the U.S. Bill of Rights -- Contending Hypotheses on the Origin of American Rights -- The Colonial Background to the State Bills of Rights -- Contrasting English and American Concepts of Rights -- Contending Views of Rights in 1789 -- Drafting the U.S. Bill of Rights -- Toward a Complete Text on the Origins of American Bills of Rights -- Attitudes toward Texts on Rights -- The Bill of Rights since 1792 -- 4. The Use of History in American Political Theory -- An Evolving View of the American Founding -- The Rediscovery of the Political Class -- 5. Intellectual History and the American Founding -- Experience Must Be Our Guide -- The Republican Tradition -- Lawyers and Liberals -- The Scottish Enlightenment -- The Enlightenment -- Science and Politics -- Relative Influence -- 6. Prolegomenon -- Appendix: European Works Read and Cited by the American Founding Generation -- Notes -- Index -- Back Cover.

Donald Lutz begins *A Preface to American Political Theory* by explaining what the book doesn't do. It doesn't begin with a panegyric to the American founding. It doesn't answer the following questions: "What are the basic principles in the U.S. Constitution? What were the intentions of the founders with respect to (fill in your own topic)? What is the meaning of pluralism, or separation of powers, or democracy, or (fill in your own concept)?" In short, it doesn't provide an overview of the content, development, or major conclusions of American political theory. What it does do is provide "a pretheoretical analysis of how to go about studying questions like the ones above how to conceptualize the project, how to proceed in looking for answers, how to avoid the logical traps peculiar to the study of American political theory." Lutz sets out to emancipate American political theorists from empiricism and inappropriate European theories and methodologies. The end result is to establish the foundation for the systematic study of American behavior, institutions, and ideas; to provide a general introduction to the study of American political theory; and to illustrate how textual analysis, history, empirical research, and analytic philosophy are all part of the enterprise. Designed for students and scholars in all disciplines, including political science, history, and legal studies, *A Preface to American Political Theory* doesn't provide answers to central continuing issues in American political theory. Rather, it provides an effective, sophisticated entree into the study of American political theory. Readers will be armed with the intellectual tools to engage in systematic study and makes them aware of the pitfalls they will inevitably encounter.
