1. Record Nr. UNINA9910554202003321

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Titolo Reclaiming patriotism in an age of extremes / / Steven B. Smith

Pubbl/distr/stampa New Haven, Connecticut:,: Yale University Press,, [2021]

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ISBN 0-300-25870-4

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (254 pages) : illustrations

Disciplina 323.650973

Soggetti Citizenship - United States

Patriotism - United States Political science - Philosophy

Electronic books.

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (pages [205]-228) and index.

Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- One. Patriotism

and Loyalty -- Two. Patriotism and Its Critics -- Three. Patriotism, Ancient and Modern -- Four. Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism --Five. Enlightened Patriotism -- Six. Reclaiming Patriotism -- Notes --

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Sommario/riassunto A rediscovery of patriotism as a virtue in line with the core values of

democracy in an extremist age"Like you perhaps, I still regard myself as

an extremely patriotic person. Which is why I so admired . . .

Reclaiming Patriotism in an Age of Extremes. It explained my emotion to me, as it might yours to you."; -David Brooks, New York Times The concept of patriotism has fallen on hard times. What was once a value that united Americans has become so politicized by both the left and the right that it threatens to rip apart the social fabric. On the right, patriotism has become synonymous with nationalism and an "us versus them" worldview, while on the left it is seen as an impediment to acknowledging important ethnic, religious, or racial identities and a threat to cosmopolitan globalism. Steven B. Smith reclaims patriotism from these extremist positions and advocates for a patriotism that is broad enough to balance loyalty to country against other loyalties.

Describing how it is a matter of both the head and the heart, Smith

shows how patriotism can bring the country together around the highest ideals of equality and is a central and ennobling disposition that democratic societies cannot afford to do without.