1. Record Nr. UNINA9910597147803321 Autore Hamilton Lawrence <1972-> Titolo Are South Africans free? // Lawrence Hamilton Pubbl/distr/stampa New York:,: Bloomsbury Academic,, 2014 **ISBN** 1-4725-9305-7 1-4725-2179-X 1-4725-2888-3 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (169 p.) Disciplina 320.01130968 Soggetti Elite (Social sciences) - South Africa Equality - South Africa Political participation - South Africa Power (Social sciences) - South Africa Quality of life - South Africa Representative government and representation - South Africa South Africa Politics and government 1994-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 Introduction -- Chapter 1: Political Freedom? -- Chapter 2: Poverty, Inequality and Education -- Chapter 3: Political Representation or What's Wrong with South Africa's Electoral System? -- Chapter 4: Public Debt and the Economic Credibility of the Post-Apartheid State --Chapter 5: What is to be Done? Overcoming South Africa's Lack of Freedom -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index. "Despite South Africa's successful transition to democracy and lauded Sommario/riassunto constitution, political freedom for the majority of South Africans remains elusive. The poor and unemployed majority are poorly represented and lack power and thus freedom. Under these conditions, the freedom of the privileged minority is also seriously impaired due to

the costs of maintaining their relative security and well-being.

Lawrence Hamilton is an internationally-known political theorist, who has spent ten years teaching in South African universities. In this unique book he brings ideas - political and philosophical - to the fore

to understand a contemporary political conundrum. He outlines the persistent, unresolved problems characterizing contemporary South Africa: poverty and quality of life statistics that are appalling for a middle-income country, levels of inequality that make South Africa one of the most unequal places in the world, skewed economic and political representation that reproduces elites rather than generating opportunities for all and an electoral system that implements the idea of proportional representation so literally that it undermines meaningful representation. Are South Africans Free? aims not only to explain the current state of South Africa but to provide positive new directions and suggestions for institutional change. Hamilton argues that freedom as power in South Africa does not depend on good will, charity or duty, and it goes beyond the complete realization of the political and civil liberties currently safeguarded in its constitution. Such change will depend on courageous leadership, active citizenship, new forms of representation and a macroeconomic policy that offers radical redistribution of actual and potential wealth."--Bloomsbury Publishing.