

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777329703321
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Titolo	Dynamics of contention // Doug McAdam, Sidney Tarrow, Charles Tilly [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2001
ISBN	1-107-12383-6 1-280-43345-0 0-511-80543-8 0-511-17480-2 0-511-04171-3 0-511-15486-0 0-511-30240-1 0-511-04404-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxi, 387 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge studies in contentious politics
Disciplina	303.48/4
Soggetti	Collective behavior Social movements Revolutions Democratization
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 349-370) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Series-title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; List of Figures and Tables; Preface and Acknowledgments; Abbreviations; PART ONE What s the Problem?; PART TWO Tentative Solutions; PART THREE Applications and Conclusions; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In recent decades the study of social movements, revolution, democratization and other non-routine politics has flourished. And yet research on the topic remains highly fragmented, reflecting the influence of at least three traditional divisions. The first of these reflects the view that various forms of contention are distinct and should be studied independent of others. Separate literatures have developed around the study of social movements, revolutions and industrial conflict. A second approach to the study of political

contention denies the possibility of general theory in deference to a grounding in the temporal and spatial particulars of any given episode of contention. The study of contentious politics are left to 'area specialists' and/or historians with a thorough knowledge of the time and place in question. Finally, overlaid on these two divisions are stylized theoretical traditions - structuralist, culturalist, and rationalist - that have developed largely in isolation from one another. This book was first published in 2001.
