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Autore	Brewer Mark D.
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Democracy, representation, and parties -- Overview : social change and shifting party bases -- Taking shape : party coalitions in the post-bellum nineteenth century -- Republican ascendancy and Democratic efforts to respond, 1896-1928 -- Tables turn: the new deal era and Democratic dominance, 1932- 1948 -- The Democratic drive to the great society -- Republicans : reasserting conservative principles and seeking a majority -- The struggle of democrats to interpret change and respond -- George Bush and further polarization -- The 2008 election and its interpretation -- Parties and the pursuit of majorities.
Sommario/riassunto	Dynamics of American Political Parties examines the process of gradual change that inexorably shapes and reshapes American politics. Parties and the politicians that comprise them seek control of government in order to implement their visions of proper public policy. To gain

control parties need to win elections, and winning elections requires assembling an electoral coalition that is larger than that crafted by the opposition. Uncertainty rules and intra-party conflict rages as different factions and groups within the parties debate the proper course(s) of action and battle it out for control of the party. Parties can never be sure how their strategic maneuvers will play out, and, even when it appears that a certain strategy has been successful, party leaders are unclear about how long apparent success will last. Change unfolds slowly, in fits and starts.
