

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778190003321
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Titolo	The minority rights revolution [[electronic resource] /] / John D. Skrentny
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, MA, : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2002
ISBN	0-674-04373-1
Descrizione fisica	xiv, 473 p
Disciplina	323.173
Soggetti	Minorities - Civil rights - United States - History Minorities - Legal status, laws, etc - United States - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 359-459) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- PREFACE -- CONTENTS -- ABBREVIATIONS -- 1 INTRODUCTION: HOW WAR AND THE BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT CHANGED AMERICA -- 2 "THIS IS WAR AND THIS IS A WAR MEASURE": RACIAL EQUALITY BECOMES NATIONAL SECURITY -- 3 NATIONAL SECURITY AND EQUAL RIGHTS: LIMITS AND QUALIFICATIONS -- 4 "WE WERE ADVANCING THE REALLY REVOLUTIONARY VIEW OF DISCRIMINATION": DESIGNATING OFFICIAL MINORITIES FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN EMPLOYMENT -- 5 "IN VIEW OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE OTHER SIGNIFICANT MINORITIES": THE EXPANSION OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION FOR MINORITY CAPITALISTS -- 6 "RACE IS A VERY RELEVANT PERSONAL CHARACTERISTIC": AFFIRMATIVE ADMISSIONS, DIVERSITY, AND THE SUPREME COURT -- 7 "LEARN, AMIGO, LEARN!" BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN THE SCHOOLS -- 8 "I AGREE WITH YOU ABOUT THE INHERENT ABSURDITY": TITLE IX AND WOMEN'S EQUALITY IN EDUCATION -- 9 WHITE MALES AND THE LIMITS OF THE MINORITY RIGHTS REVOLUTION: THE DISABLED, WHITE ETHNICS, AND GAYS -- 10 CONCLUSION: THE RARE AMERICAN EPIPHANY -- NOTES -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	In the wake of the black civil rights movement, other disadvantaged groups of Americans began to make headway--Latinos, women, Asian Americans, and the disabled found themselves the beneficiaries of new laws and policies--and by the early 1970s a minority rights revolution was well underway. In the first book to take a broad perspective on this

wide-ranging and far-reaching phenomenon, John D. Skrentny exposes the connections between the diverse actions and circumstances that contributed to this revolution--and that forever changed the face of American politics. Though protest and lobbying played a role in bringing about new laws and regulations--touching everything from wheelchair access to women's athletics to bilingual education--what Skrentny describes was not primarily a bottom-up story of radical confrontation. Rather, elites often led the way, and some of the most prominent advocates for expanding civil rights were the conservative Republicans who later emerged as these policies' most vociferous opponents. This book traces the minority rights revolution back to its roots not only in the black civil rights movement but in the aftermath of World War II, in which a world consensus on equal rights emerged from the Allies' triumph over the oppressive regimes of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, and then the Soviet Union. It also contrasts failed minority rights development for white ethnics and gays/lesbians with groups the government successfully categorized with African Americans. Investigating these links, Skrentny is able to present the world as America's leaders saw it; and so, to show how and why familiar figures--such as Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, and, remarkably enough, conservatives like Senator Barry Goldwater and Robert Bork--created and advanced policies that have made the country more egalitarian but left it perhaps as divided as ever.
