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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910778227003321 |
| Autore | Pottenger John R. <1950-> |
| Titolo | Reaping the whirlwind [[electronic resource]] : liberal democracy and the religious axis // John R. Pottenger |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Washington, D.C., : Georgetown University Press, c2007 |
| ISBN | 1-58901-404-9 1-4356-2751-2 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (353 p.) |
| Collana | Religion and politics series |
| Disciplina | 322/.1 |
| Soggetti | Religion and politics Democracy - Religious aspects Religious pluralism - Political aspects |
| 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 (p. 301-323) and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; Part One: Religion and Politics; Part Two: The Foundation and Structure of the Modern State; Part Three: Challengers to Liberal Democracy and the Religious Axis; Part Four: Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | As early as the sixteenth century the liberal democratic state has been forced to confront the question of religion in politics. The result has been a tense and uncomfortable balancing act. Today, in the public square of liberal democracy, a number of religious confessions and beliefs compete for attention. In the American experience, some sense of religious pluralism and relative social harmony has been maintained. However, for this relationship to prevail, a tension must continue to exist that balances the political and social pursuits of self-interest with meeting the objectives of the |