1. Record Nr. UNINA9910778737303321 Titolo Participation and democracy, East and West: comparisons and interpretations // edited by Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Marilyn Rueschemeyer and Bjorn Wittrock London;; New York:,: Routledge,, 2015, c1998 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-317-46318-8 0-7656-0230-X 1-315-70188-X 0-585-00166-9 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (304 p.) Altri autori (Persone) RueschemeyerDietrich RueschemeyerMarilyn <1938-> WittrockBjorn 321.8/09182/109049 Disciplina 321.809182109049 Soggetti Comparative government Democracy -- Europe, Eastern Democracy -- Europe, Western **Democracy -- United States** Democracy - Europe, Eastern Democracy - Europe, Western **Democracy - United States** Political Theory of the State Political Science Law, Politics & Government Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali First published 1998 by M.E. Sharpe. ""Cover ""; ""Half Title ""; ""Title Page ""; ""Copyright Page ""; ""Dedication ""; ""Table of Contents ""; ""About the Editors and Nota di contenuto

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Sommario/riassunto

Since Alexis de Tocqueville first made the linkage in his writings on America, a healthy democracy has been associated with the flourishing of civil society, as measured by popular participation in voluntary and civic activities and the vitality of organizations that mediate between the individual and the state. This volume takes a fresh look at this classic theme in the context of post-communist Eastern Europe, the West European welfare states and the United States, asking: what patterns of participation characterize the new democracies of Eastern Europe?; what levels of civic activism are ch