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Nota di contenuto	"Injustices and inequities": the politics of apportionment, 1870-1888 -- "One irrevocable duty": democrats and reapportionment, 1889-1893 -- "The time has come to make a precedent": Wisconsin, 1891-1892 -- "Fought out in the courts": Michigan, 1891-1893 -- "Partisanship has run riot": Indiana, 1892-1894 -- "An ineradicable vice": Wisconsin, 1893-1896 -- "The consequences of their own folly": Indiana, 1894-1898 -- "A state of uncertainty": Illinois, 1893-1898 -- "Our system of popular representative government": from chaos to control.
Sommario/riassunto	This book demonstrates that apportionment, although long overlooked by scholars, dominated state politics in late nineteenth-century

America, setting the boundaries not only for legislative districts but for the nature of representative democracy. The book examines the fierce struggles over apportionment in the Midwest, where a distinctive constitutional and electoral context shaped their course with momentous consequences. As the major parties alternated in effectively disenfranchising their opponents through gerrymanders, growing tensions challenged established patterns of political behaviour and precipitated intense and even dangerous disputes. Unprecedented judicial intervention overturned gerrymanders in stunning decisions that electrified the public but intensified rather than resolved political conflict and uncertainty. Ultimately, America's political ideal of representative democracy was frustrated by its own political institutions, including the courts, because their decisions against gerrymandering in the 1890s helped parties and legislatures entrench the practice as a basic and profoundly undemocratic feature of American politics in the twentieth century.
