

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910779925003321
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Titolo	Legitimizing identities : the self-presentations of rulers and subjects / / Rodney Barker [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2001
ISBN	1-107-12471-9 0-511-04460-7 0-511-15449-6 9786610421435 0-511-32838-9 0-511-17455-1 0-511-49016-X 0-521-00425-X 1-280-42143-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (viii, 161 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	303.3/4
Soggetti	Political leadership - Psychological aspects Politicians - Psychology Self-acceptance
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 141-157) and index.
Nota di contenuto	; 1. Legitimacy and legitimation -- ; 2. Legitimizing identities -- ; 3. King John's Christmas cards: self-legitimation -- ; 4. Cousins at home and abroad -- ; 5. Rebels and vigilantes -- ; 6. Citizens -- ; 7. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	Rulers of all kinds, from feudal monarchs to democratic presidents and prime ministers, justify themselves to themselves through a variety of rituals, rhetoric, and dramatisations, using everything from architecture and coinage to etiquette and portraiture. This kind of legitimation - self-legitimation - has been overlooked in an age which is concerned principally with how government can be justified in the eyes of its citizens. In this book, Rodney Barker argues that at least as much time is spent by rulers legitimating themselves in their own eyes, and

cultivating their own sense of identity, as is spent in trying to convince ordinary subjects. Once this dimension of ruling is taken into account, a far fuller understanding can be gained of what rulers are doing when they rule. It can also open the way to a more complete grasp of what subjects are doing, both when they obey and when they rebel.
