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Titolo	The price of progress : public services, taxation, and the American corporate state, 1877 to 1929 // R. Rudy Higgins-Evenson
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 168 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Reconfiguring American political history
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Soggetti	Government spending policy - United States - States Taxation - United States - States - History Corporate state - United States - History United States Politics and government United States Economic conditions
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Nota di contenuto	Compromise, corruption, and confrontation : tax reform in the 1870s -- Progress, bit by bit : school and insane asylum spending, 1880 to 1900 -- From charter-mongering to catching corporate freeloaders : corporation taxes, 1880-1907 -- The second era of internal improvements : transportation spending, 1890 to 1929 -- Consent, control, and centralization : school and hospital spending, 1900 to 1929 -- Giants of history : income and gasoline taxation, 1910 to 1929 -- The test of democracy : controlling spending in the corporate state, 1907 to 1929.
Sommario/riassunto	Between the Civil War and the Great Depression, twin revolutions swept through American business and government. In business, large corporations came to dominate entire sectors and markets. In government, new services and agencies, especially at the city and state levels, sprang up to ameliorate a broad spectrum of social problems. In <i>The Price of Progress</i> , R. Rudy Higgins-Evenson offers a fresh analysis of the relationship between those two revolutions. Using previously unexploited data from the annual reports of state treasurers and comptrollers, he provides a detailed, empirical assessment of the goods and services provided to citizens, as well as the resources

extracted from them, by state governments during the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. Focusing on New York, Massachusetts, California, and Kansas, but including data on 13 other states, his comparative study suggests that the "corporate state" originated in tax policies designed to finance new and innovative government services. Business and government grew together in a surprising and complex fashion. In the late nineteenth century, services such as mental health care for the needy and free elementary education for all children created new strains on the states' old property tax systems. In order to pay for newly constructed state asylums and schools, states experimented for the first time with corporate taxation as a source of revenue, linking state revenues to the profitability of industries such as railroads and utilities. To control their tax bills, big businesses intensified lobbying efforts in state legislatures, captured important positions in state tax bureaus, and sponsored a variety of government-efficiency reform organizations. The unintended result of corporate taxation -- imposed to allow states to fulfill their responsibilities to their citizens -- was the creation of increasingly intimate ties between politicians, bureaucrats, corporate leaders, and progressive citizens. By the 1920s, a variety of "corporate states" had proliferated across the nation, each shaped by a particular mix of taxation and public services, each offering a case study in how the business of America, as President Calvin Coolidge put it, became business.

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