Record Nr. UNINA9910781029303321 Autore Hart Stephen <1946-> Titolo Cultural dilemmas of progressive politics [[electronic resource]]: styles of engagement among grassroots activists / / Stephen Hart Chicago,: University of Chicago Press, 2001 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-226-31819-2 9786612538049 1-282-53804-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (306 p.) Collana Morality and society series Disciplina 323/.042/0973 Soggetti Political participation - United States Social movements - United States Religion and politics - United States Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Part I: How We Engage in Politics and Why It Matters -- Part II: Congregation-Based Community Organizing -- Part III: Human Rights and Amnesty International -- Part IV: How Should We Talk about Politics? --Appendix A. Results from Two National Surveys of Congregation-Based Community Organizing -- Appendix B. A Catholic Framework for Economic Life (U.S. Catholic Conference) -- Appendix C. Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (Republic of France) -- Appendix D. The Bill of Rights and Supporting Documents (United States of America) -- Appendix E. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations) -- Appendix F. Excerpts from the Statute of Amnesty International -- Notes -- Index Sommario/riassunto Why have conservatives fared so much better than progressives in recent decades, even though polls show no significant move to the right in public opinion? Cultural Dilemmas of Progressive Politics highlights one reason: that progressives often adopt impoverished modes of discourse, ceding the moral high ground to their conservative

rivals. Stephen Hart also shows that some progressive groups are pioneering more robust ways of talking about their issues and values,

providing examples other progressives could emulate. Through case studies of grassroots movements-particularly the economic justice work carried on by congregation-based community organizing and the pursuit of human rights by local members of Amnesty International-Hart shows how these groups develop distinctive ways of talking about politics and create characteristic stories, ceremonies, and practices. According to Hart, the way people engage in politics matters just as much as the content of their ideas: when activists make the moral basis for their activism clear, engage issues with passion, and articulate a unified social vision, they challenge the recent ascendancy of conservative discourse. On the basis of these case studies, Hart addresses currently debated topics such as individualism in America and whether strains of political thought strongly informed by religion and moral values are compatible with tolerance and liberty.