1. Record Nr. UNINA9910781476103321 Autore Bencivenni Marcella **Titolo** Italian Immigrant Radical Culture: The Idealism of the Sovversivi in the United States, 1890-1940 / / Marcella Bencivenni Pubbl/distr/stampa New York, NY:,: New York University Press,, [2011] ©2011 **ISBN** 0-8147-2318-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (288 p.) Disciplina 973.0451 Soggetti Italian American literature - History and criticism Italian Americans - Intellectual life - 20th century Italian Americans - Intellectual life - 19th century Radicalism - United States - History - 20th century Radicalism - United States - History - 19th century Italian Americans - Politics and government - History - 20th century Italian Americans Politics and government History 19th century Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Italian American Radicalism: Old World Roots, New World Developments -- 2. The Sovversivi and Their Cultural World -- 3. A Literary Class War: The Italian American Radical Press -- 4. Politics and Leisure: The Italian American Radical Stage -- 5. Italian American Literary Radicalism -- 6. Arturo Giovannitti: Poet and Prophet of Labor -- 7. Allegories of Anti-Fascism: The Radical Cartoons of Fort Velona -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Glossary of Frequently Used Italian Terms -- Index -- About the Author Sommario/riassunto Maligned by modern media and often stereotyped. Italian Americans possess a vibrant, if largely forgotten, radical past. In Italian Immigrant Radical Culture, Marcella Bencivenni delves into the history of the sovversivi, a transnational generation of social rebels, and offers a fascinating portrait of their political struggle as well as their milieu,

beliefs, and artistic creativity in the United States. As early as 1882, the sovversivi founded a socialist club in Brooklyn. Radical organizations

then multiplied and spread across the country, from large urban cities to smaller industrial mining areas. By 1900, thirty official Italian sections of the Socialist Party along the East Coast and countless independent anarchist and revolutionary circles sprang up throughout the nation. Forming their own alternative press, institutions, and working class organizations, these groups created a vigorous movement and counterculture that constituted a significant part of the American Left until World War II. Italian Immigrant Radical Culture compellingly documents the wide spectrum of this oppositional culture and examines the many cultural and artistic forms it took, from newspapers to literature and poetry to theater and visual art. As the first cultural history of Italian American activism, it provides a richer understanding of the Italian immigrant experience while also deepening historical perceptions of radical politics and culture.