Record Nr. UNINA9910781728803321 Autore Levinson Sanford <1941-> Titolo Constitutional faith [[electronic resource] /] / Sanford Levinson; with a new afterword by the author Princeton, N.J.; Woodstock,: Princeton University Press, 2011, c1988 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-29092-8 9786613290922 1-4008-3987-4 Edizione [With a New afterword by the author] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (275 p.) Disciplina 342.7302/9 Constitutional history - United States Soggetti Constitutional law - United States Constitutional law - Religious aspects Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Paperback reissue, with a new afterword, 2011. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- INTRODUCTION -- CHAPTER ONE. The "Constitution" in American Civil Religion --CHAPTER TWO. The Moral Dimension of Constitutional Faith --CHAPTER THREE. Lovalty Oaths: The Creedal Affirmations of Constitutional Faith -- CHAPTER FOUR. Constitutional "Attachment": Identifying the Content of One's Commitment -- CHAPTER FIVE. The Law School, The Faith Community, And the Professing of Law --CHAPTER SIX. Conclusion: Adding One's Signature to the Constitution -- NOTES -- AFTERWORD TO THE 2011 EDITION -- INDEX Sommario/riassunto This book examines the "constitutional faith" that has, since 1788, been a central component of American "civil religion." By taking seriously the parallel between wholehearted acceptance of the Constitution and religious faith, Sanford Levinson opens up a host of intriguing questions about what it means to be American. While some view the Constitution as the central component of an American religion that serves to unite the social order, Levinson maintains that its sacred role can result in conflict, fragmentation, and even war. To Levinson, the Constitution's value lies in the realm of the discourse it sustains: a

uniquely American form of political rhetoric that allows citizens to

grapple with every important public issue imaginable. In a new afterword, Levinson looks at the deepening of constitutional worship and attributes the current widespread frustrations with the government to the static nature of the Constitution.