

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784161203321
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Titolo	Democracy in Senegal [[electronic resource]] : Tocquevillian Analytics in Africa // by S. Gellar
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Palgrave Macmillan US : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2005
ISBN	1-349-53192-8 1-281-36552-1 9786611365523 1-4039-8216-3
Edizione	[1st ed. 2005.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (256 p.)
Collana	Political evolution and institutional change
Disciplina	320.9663
Soggetti	Africa - Politics and government Comparative government Africa - History Political science History, Modern African Politics Comparative Politics African History Political Science Modern History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Indiana University."
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [208]-216) and index.
Sommario/riassunto	Providing an in-depth comparative study of democracy formation, Gellar traces Senegal's movement from a pre-colonial aristocratic order towards a modern democratic political order. Inspired by Tocqueville's methodology, he identifies social equality, ethnic and religious tolerance, popular participation in local affairs, and freedom of association and the press as vital components of any democratic system. He shows how centralized state structures and monopoly of political power stifled local initiative and perpetuated neo-patrimonial

modes of governance.
