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Nota di contenuto	Part 1 : The framework and theoretical argument. Posing the right questions -- The sectoral foundations of free market democracy -- Part 2 : The cases. Neoliberalism and the transformation of rural society in Chile -- Social capital, organization, political participation, and democratic competition in Chile -- The consolidation of free market democracy and Chilean electoral competition, 1988-2000 -- Markets and democratization in Mexico : rural politics between corporatism and neoliberalism -- Part 3 : Conclusions and implications. Political

competitiveness, organized interests, and the democratic market.

Sommario/riassunto

This book examines the relationship between free markets and democracy. It demonstrates how the implementation of even very painful free-market economic reforms in Chile and Mexico have helped to consolidate democratic politics without engendering a backlash against either reform or democratization. This national-level compatibility between free markets and democracy, however, is founded on their rural incompatibility. In the countryside, free-market reforms socially isolate peasants to such a degree that they become unable to organize independently, and are vulnerable to the pressures of local economic elites. This helps to create an electoral coalition behind free-market reforms that is critically based in some of the market's biggest victims: the peasantry. The book concludes that the comparatively stable free-market democracy in Latin America hinges critically on its defects in the countryside; conservative, free-market elites may consent to open politics only if they have a rural electoral redoubt.
