1. Record Nr. UNINA9910784782403321

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Titolo Civil Society in British History [[electronic resource]]: Ideas, Identities,

Institutions

Pubbl/distr/stampa Oxford,: Oxford University Press, UK, 2005

ISBN 0-19-151556-6

1-4237-8888-5

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (332 p.)

Disciplina 301.0941

301/.0941

Soggetti Great Britain -- History

Great Britain -- Politics and government -- Citizen participation

Great Britain -- Social conditions Social action -- Great Britain -- History

Regions & Countries - Europe

History & Archaeology

Great Britain

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di contenuto Contents; List of Contributors; Introduction: Civil Society in British

History: Paradigm or Peculiarity?; 1. From Richard Hooker to Harold Laski: Changing Perceptions of Civil Society in British Political Thought, Late Sixteenth to Early Twentieth Centuries; 2. Central Government 'Interference': Changing Conceptions, Practices, and Concerns, c.1700-1850; 3. 'Opinions deliver'd in conversation': Conversation, Politics, and Gender in the Late Eighteenth Century; 4. Civil Society by Accident? Paradoxes of Voluntarism and Pluralism in the Nineteenth and

Twentieth Centuries

5. Civil Society in Nineteenth-century Britain and Germany: J. M. Ludlow, Lujo Brentano, and the Labour Question6. Altercation Over Civil Society. The Bitter Cry of the Edwardian Middle Classes; 7. Public or Private Ownership? The Dilemma of Urban Utilities in London and New York, 1870-1914; 8. British Progressives and Civil Society in India,

1905-1914; 9. Military Service Tribunals: Civil Society in Action, 1916-

1918; 10. The Countryside, Planning, and Civil Society in Britain; 11. Women and Civil Society: Feminist Responses to the Irish Constitution of 1937

12. Civil Society and the Clerisy: Christian Elites and National Culture, c. 1930-195013. 'Simple Solutions to Complex Problems': The Greater London Council and the Greater London Development Plan, 1965-1973; 14. Civil Society and the Good Citizen: Competing Conceptions of Citizenship in Twentieth-century Britain; 15. Britons, Settlers, and Aborigines: Civil Society and its Colonized 'Other' in Colonial, Post-colonial, and Present-day Australia; Bibliography and Further Reading; Index

Sommario/riassunto

This book explores the many different strands in the language of civil society from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. Through a series of case-studies it investigates the applicability of the term to a wide range of historical settings. The contributors show how past understandings of the term were often very different from (even in some respects the exact opposite of) those held today. -; This book explores the many different strands in the language of civil society from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. Through a series of case-studies it investigates the applicability of the