Record Nr. UNINA9910785552003321 Autore Edwards Mickey <1937-> Titolo The parties versus the people : how to turn Republicans and Democrats into Americans / / Mickey Edwards New Haven, Connecticut;; London, England:,: Yale University Press,, Pubbl/distr/stampa [2012] ©2012 **ISBN** 1-283-57133-1 9786613883780 0-300-18602-9 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (233 p.) Disciplina 320.973 Soggetti Polarization (Social sciences) - United States Political parties - United States Two-party systems - United States Divided government - United States **Democracy - United States** Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (pages [187]-192) and index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- One. American Tribalism -- Two. The Disappearing Dream -- Three. Reclaiming Our Democracy -- Four. Drawing a Line in the Sand -- Five. The Money Stream -- Six. Government Leaders, Not Party Leaders --Seven. Debate and Democracy -- Eight. Rearrange the Furniture --Nine. Rivals, Not Enemies -- Ten. The Partisan Presidency -- Eleven. Declarations of Independence -- Twelve. Beyond Partisanship --Thirteen. The Way Forward -- Appendix: Citizen Initiative Information by State -- Notes -- Suggested Reading -- Index America's political system is dysfunctional. While this is a widely held Sommario/riassunto view, it is a problem that-so far-has proved intractable. After every election, voters discover yet again that political ";leaders"; are simply quarreling in a never-ending battle between the two warring tribes. the

Republicans and Democrats. In this critically important book, a

distinguished statesman and thinker identifies exactly how our political

and governing systems reward intransigence, discourage compromise, and undermine our democracy. He then describes exactly what must be done to banish the negative effects of partisan warfare from our political system. As a former congressman, Mickey Edwards witnessed firsthand how important legislative battles can devolve into struggles not over principle but over party advantage. He offers graphic examples of how this problem has intensified and reveals how political battles have become nothing more than conflicts between party machines. Edwards's solutions-specific, practical, fair, and original-show the way to break the stranglehold of the political party system. The Parties Versus the People offers hope for a fundamental renewal of American democracy.