

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910785674603321
Autore	Archer Robin
Titolo	Why is there no labor party in the United States? [[electronic resource] /] / Robin Archer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, c2007
ISBN	1-282-96470-4 9786612964701 1-4008-3754-5
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (369 p.)
Collana	Princeton studies in American politics
Classificazione	MG 70260
Disciplina	322/.20973
Soggetti	Labor unions - Political activity - United States - History Labor unions - Political activity - Australia - History Political sociology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List of Figures -- List of Tables -- List of Abbreviations -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- CHAPTER 1. Workers -- CHAPTER 2. Race -- CHAPTER 3. Elections and the Constitution -- CHAPTER 4. The Courts -- CHAPTER 5. Repression -- CHAPTER 6. Liberalism -- CHAPTER 7. Religion -- CHAPTER 8. Socialism -- Conclusion -- Appendix: Notes and Sources for the Tables -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Backmatter
Sommario/riassunto	Why is the United States the only advanced capitalist country with no labor party? This question is one of the great enduring puzzles of American political development, and it lies at the heart of a fundamental debate about the nature of American society. Tackling this debate head-on, Robin Archer puts forward a new explanation for why there is no American labor party--an explanation that suggests that much of the conventional wisdom about "American exceptionalism" is untenable. Conventional explanations rely on comparison with Europe. Archer challenges these explanations by comparing the United States with its most similar New World counterpart--Australia. This comparison is particularly revealing, not only because the United States and Australia share many fundamental historical, political, and social

characteristics, but also because Australian unions established a labor party in the late nineteenth century, just when American unions, against a common backdrop of industrial defeat and depression, came closest to doing something similar. Archer examines each of the factors that could help explain the American outcome, and his systematic comparison yields unexpected conclusions. He argues that prosperity, democracy, liberalism, and racial hostility often promoted the very changes they are said to have obstructed. And he shows that it was not these characteristics that left the United States without a labor party, but, rather, the powerful impact of repression, religion, and political sectarianism.
