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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910790338303321 |
| Autore | Wilensky Harold L. |
| Titolo | American political economy in global perspective / / Harold L. Wilensky [[electronic resource]] |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012 |
| ISBN | 1-107-23086-1 1-139-23459-5 1-280-87908-4 1-139-23313-0 9786613720399 1-139-08736-3 1-139-23091-3 1-139-23391-2 1-139-22945-1 1-139-23236-3 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (xxiv, 360 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) |
| Classificazione | POL000000 |
| Disciplina | 330.973 |
| Soggetti | Economic policy Comparative government Political sociology Welfare state Globalization United States Economic policy United States Economic conditions |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Machine generated contents note: Part I. Globalization, Public Policy, and the Wellbeing of People: 1. The welfare state as the center of public finance and political conflict; 2. Energy policy and performance: U.S. and the world; 3. What tradeoffs are good and bad for the economy?: domestic structures and policies that permit adaptation to globalization; 4. Retrenchment of the welfare state? the fate of 'cutback |

budgeting' in Italy, France, Germany, the U.S., U.K., and New Zealand; 5. Pensions coverage: US health care remains unique; 6. The impact of 'globalization': an overview; Part II. Moving the U.S. off the Low Road: Lessons from Abroad: 7. Low road versus high road: American exceptionalism; 8. Policy implications for the United States: how to get off the low road.

Sommario/riassunto

This book is a guide to claims about the proper role of government and markets in a global economy. Moving between systematic comparison of nineteen rich democracies and debate about what the United States can do to restore a more civilized, egalitarian and fair society, Harold L. Wilensky tells us how six of these countries got on a low road to economic progress and which components of their labor-crunch strategy are uniquely American. He provides an overview of the impact of major dimensions of globalization, only one of which - the interaction of the internationalization of finance and the rapid increase in the autonomy of central banks - undermines either national sovereignty or job security, labor standards, and the welfare state. Although Wilensky views American policy and politics through the lens of globalization, he concludes that the nation-state remains the center of personal identity, social solidarity and political action.