

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790700003321
Autore	Rodine-Hardy Kirsten
Titolo	Global markets and government regulation in telecommunications // Kirsten Rodine-Hardy, Northeastern University [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-107-30149-1 1-107-23591-X 1-107-30569-1 1-107-45404-2 1-107-31433-X 1-107-30658-2 1-107-30878-X 1-139-13688-7 1-107-31213-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxii, 207 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	POL011000
Disciplina	384
Soggetti	Telecommunication policy Deregulation
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 (p. 177-194) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Understanding global regulatory reform in telecommunications : a paradigm shift -- Why change the rules? explaining liberal telecom reform -- When and how do countries change the rules? econometric analysis of the timing of establishing independent regulators and privatizing telecom firms -- Regulatory reform in the central Europe : freer markets, European rules -- Northern European regulatory reform : liberal reform northern-style, "regulation-lite" -- Explaining change in a globalized world : international organizations and the emergence of networks and norms.
Sommario/riassunto	In recent years, liberalization, privatization and deregulation have become commonplace in sectors once dominated by government-owned monopolies. In telecommunications, for example, during the 1990s, more than 129 countries established independent regulatory

agencies and more than 100 countries privatized the state-owned telecom operator. Why did so many countries liberalize in such a short period of time? For example, why did both Denmark and Burundi, nations different along so many relevant dimensions, liberalize their telecom sectors around the same time? Kirsten L. Rodine-Hardy argues that international organizations - not national governments or market forces - are the primary drivers of policy convergence in the important arena of telecommunications regulation: they create and shape preferences for reform and provide forums for expert discussions and the emergence of policy standards. Yet she also shows that international convergence leaves room for substantial variation among countries, using both econometric analysis and controlled case comparisons of eight European countries.

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