1. Record Nr. UNINA9910792947703321

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Titolo Rousseau's constitutionalism : austerity and republican freedom / /

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Pubbl/distr/stampa Oxford, UK;; Portland, Oregon:,: Hart Publishing,, 2017

ISBN 1-5099-0350-X

1-5099-0348-8 1-5099-0349-6

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (187 pages) : illustrations

Disciplina 342.001

Soggetti Constitutional law - Philosophy

Constitutional law - France - Corsica - History

Constitutional law - Poland - History

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (pages 149-156) and index.

Nota di contenuto Introduction : Rousseau's austerity and Rousseau's Constitutions --

The constitution of freedom -- The constitution of Autarky -- The constitution of symbol and ritual -- The constitution of deliberation --

The constitution of judgment.

Sommario/riassunto Despite Rousseau's legacy to political thought, his contribution as a

constitutional theorist is underexplored. Drawing on his constitutional designs for Corsica and Poland, this book argues that Rousseau's constitutionalism is defined chiefly by its socially directive character. His constitutional projects are not aimed, primarily, at coordinating and containing state power in the familiar liberal-democratic sense. Instead, they are aimed at fostering the social conditions in which a fuller sense of freedom - understood broadly as non-domination - can be realised across all social domains. And in turn, since Rousseau views domination as being deeply embedded in complex social practices, his constitutionalism is aimed at fostering a radical austerity - social, economic and cultural - as its foil. In locating Rousseau's constitutional projects within his social and political theory of servitude and

domination, this book will challenge the predominant focus and orientation of contemporary republican theory. Leading republican

thinkers have drawn on the historical republican canon to articulate a model of constitutionalism which is, on the whole, 'liberal' in focus and orientation. This book will argue that the more communitarian orientation of Rousseau's constitutionalism - that is, its socially-directive focus - stems from a sophisticated and compelling account of the sources of unfreedom in complex societies, sources which are ignored or downplayed by the neo-republican literature. Rousseau embraces a communitarian social politics as part of his constitutional project precisely because, pessimistically, he views domination as being deeply embedded in the social relations of the liberal order