Record Nr.	UNINA9910797918903321
Titolo	Parliament and Parliamentarism : a comparative history of a European concept / / edited by Pasi Ihalainen, Cornelia Ilie, and Kari Palonen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, [New York] ; ; Oxford, [England] : , : Berghahn Books, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	1-78238-955-5
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	340 p
Collana	European Conceptual History
Disciplina	327.4
Soggetti	Parliamentary practice
	Legislative bodies
	Representative government and representation
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 at the end of each chapters and index.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 6 The Formation of Parliamentarism in the Nordic Countries from the Napoleonic Wars to the First World WarChapter 7 The Conceptual History of the Russian State Duma ; PART II The Discourse and Rhetoric of Modern Parliaments ; Chapter 8 Parliamentary Discourse and Deliberative Rhetoric ; Chapter 9 Rhetoric, Parliament and the Monarchy in Pre-revolutionary England ; Chapter 10 French Parliamentary Discourse, 1789-1914 ; Chapter 11 German Parliamentary Discourse since 1848 from a Linguistic Point of View Chapter 12 Central and Eastern European Parliamentary Rhetoric since the Nineteenth Century PART III Parliament and Parliamentarism in Political Theory ; Chapter 13 Political Theories of Parliamentarism ; Chapter 14 Thinking of Politics in a Parliamentary Manner ; Chapter 15 Theories of Representative Government and Parliamentarism in Italy from the 1840s to the 1920s; Chapter 16 Parliamentarism and Democracy in German Political Theory since 1848 ; Chapter 17 Parliamentarism in Spanish Politics in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries Chapter 18 Towards a Political Theory of EU Parliamentarism Epilogue; Index

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Parliamentary theory, practices, discourses, and institutions constitute a distinctively European contribution to modern politics. Taking a broad historical perspective, this cross-disciplinary, innovative, and rigorous collection locates the essence of parliamentarism in four key aspects deliberation, representation, responsibility, and sovereignty—and explores the different ways in which they have been contested, reshaped, and implemented in a series of representative national and regional case studies. As one of the first comparative studies in conceptual history, this volume focuses on debates about the nature of parliament and parliamentarism within and across different European countries, representative institutions, and genres of political discourse.