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Nota di contenuto	The Risk of Social Policy? The electoral consequences of welfare state retrenchment and social policy performance in OECD countries; Contents; Copyright; List of figures; List of tables; Acknowledgements; 1 Introduction; 1.1 Research question; 1.2 Structure of the book; 2 Welfare state research:the theoretical background for the research question; 2.1 Theories of welfare state development; 2.2 Empirical development of Western welfare states; 2.3 Public support for the welfare state; 2.4 My research question embedded in the welfare state literature 3 Electoral research and issue voting:the theoretical background for the analyses3.1 Issue voting theory; 3.2 Categorizations of issue effects; 3.3 Issue salience, attitude accessibility and the link between attitudes and behaviour; 3.4 Empirical evidence for issue voting; 3.5 Some concluding remarks; 3.6 My research question in an electoral research framework; 4 The context:more theoretical background for the analyses; 4.1 Individuals nested in contexts; 4.2 The clarity of

responsibility; 4.3 The welfare state environment; 4.4 The electoral campaign
 4.5 The context and implications for my research question
 5 Research strategy, design and method; 5.1 Elaboration of research steps and main hypotheses; 5.2 Research strategy; 5.3 Research design: data and time period; 5.4 Two theoretical models; 5.5 Practical issues: the theoretical models and the actual data; 5.6 Method; 6 The salience and performance of social policy in times of permanent austerity; 6.1 The salience of social policy; 6.2 The performance of social policy; 6.3 Summary; 7 The impact of social policy attitudes on the incumbent vote; 7.1 The impact of social policy salience
 7.2 The impact of social policy performance
 7.3 The impact of social policy salience and performance on defection from incumbent vote; 7.4 Summary of evidence of social policy attitudes; 7.5 The impact of the context on the relationship between social policy attitudes and the incumbent vote; 7.6 Summary of evidence for contextual influences; 8 Welfare state retrenchment and the incumbent performance in social policy; 8.1 Individual- level factors and contextual controls; 8.2 The influence of welfare state reforms; 8.3 Summary
 9 Re-election at stake? The impact of social policy on the election outcome
 9.1 The relative influence of the issue of social policy; 9.2 The relative influence of social policy performance; 9.3 Welfare state retrenchment and the campaign salience of social policy; 9.4 The influence of social policy on real-world government composition; 9.5 Summary; 10 Discussion of results and conclusion; 10.1 Joint discussion of results; 10.2 General implications for the literature; 10.3 Future research proposals; Notes; References; Index

Sommario/riassunto

The Risk of Social Policy? uses a comparative perspective to systematically analyse the effects of social policy reforms and welfare state retrenchment on voting choice for the government. It re-examines twenty elections in OECD countries to show if and how social policy issues drive elections. This book contributes to the existing literature by providing an empirical analysis of the electoral implications of social policy. Giger asks the basic research question: What are the electoral consequences of social policy performance and retrenchment? More specifically, the followin
