

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910808689803321
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Titolo	Special responsibilities : global problems and American power // Mlada Bukovansky ...[et. al.]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, : Cambridge University Press, 2012
ISBN	1-139-41165-9 1-107-23152-3 1-280-68520-4 9786613662149 1-139-42304-5 1-139-42002-X 1-139-10881-6 1-139-42207-3 1-139-41798-3 1-139-42411-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 290 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	POL011000
Disciplina	327.73
Soggetti	International relations - Moral and ethical aspects Responsibility - Political aspects United States Foreign relations Moral and ethical aspects
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: Introduction; Part I. Theoretical Framework: 1. A practice in search of a theory; 2. Special responsibilities in world politics; Part II. Three Global Problems: 3. Nuclear proliferation; 4. Climate change; 5. Global finance; Part III. Ethical Dimensions: 6. The ethics of special responsibilities; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index.
Sommario/riassunto	The language of special responsibilities is ubiquitous in world politics, with policymakers and commentators alike speaking and acting as though particular states have, or ought to have, unique obligations in managing global problems. Surprisingly, scholars are yet to provide any in-depth analysis of this fascinating aspect of world politics. This path-

breaking study examines the nature of special responsibilities, the complex politics that surround them and how they condition international social power. The argument is illustrated with detailed case-studies of nuclear proliferation, climate change and global finance. All three problems have been addressed by an allocation of special responsibilities, but while this has structured politics in these areas, it has also been the subject of ongoing contestation. With a focus on the United States, this book argues that power must be understood as a social phenomenon and that American power varies significantly across security, economic and environmental domains.
