

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910808829703321
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Titolo	The tragedy of William Jennings Bryan : constitutional law and the politics of backlash // Gerard N. Magliocca
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2011
ISBN	1-283-15055-7 9786613150554 0-300-15315-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (224 p.)
Disciplina	342.7302/9
Soggetti	Constitutional history - United States United States Politics and government 1865-1933
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 213-227) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : on constitutional failure -- Constructing reconstruction -- The rise of populism -- Resistance North and South -- The Supreme Court intervenes -- The election of 1896 -- A new constitutional regime -- The progressive correction -- Conclusion : what is constitutional failure?.
Sommario/riassunto	Although Populist candidate William Jennings Bryan lost the presidential elections of 1896, 1900, and 1908, he was the most influential political figure of his era. In this astutely argued book, Gerard N. Magliocca explores how Bryan's effort to reach the White House energized conservatives across the nation and caused a transformation in constitutional law. Responding negatively to the Populist agenda, the Supreme Court established a host of new constitutional principles during the 1890's. Many of them proved long-lasting and highly consequential, including the "separate but equal" doctrine supporting racial segregation, the authorization of the use of force against striking workers, and the creation of the liberty of contract. The judicial backlash of the 1890's-the most powerful the United States has ever experienced-illustrates vividly the risks of seeking fundamental social change. Magliocca concludes by examining the lessons of the Populist experience for advocates of change in our own divisive times.

