Record Nr. UNINA9910810823103321 Autore Sternhell Zeev Titolo The anti-enlightenment tradition / / Zeev Sternhell; translated by David Maisel Pubbl/distr/stampa New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2010 **ISBN** 1-282-43745-3 9786612437458 0-300-15633-2 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (544 p.) Disciplina 320.52094 Conservatism - Europe - History Soggetti Enlightenment Right and left (Political science) Political science - Europe - History - 18th century Political science - Europe - History - 19th century Political science - Europe - History - 20th century 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 and index. Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. The Clash of Nota di contenuto Traditions -- 2. The Foundations of a Different Modernity -- 3. The Revolt against Reason and Natural Rights -- 4. The Political Culture of Prejudice -- 5. The Law of Inequality and the War on Democracy -- 6. The Intellectual Foundations of Nationalism -- 7. The Crisis of Civilization, Relativism, and the Death of Universal Values at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century -- 8. The Anti-Enlightenment of the Cold War -- Epilogue -- Notes -- Index Sommario/riassunto In this masterful work of historical scholarship, Zeev Sternhell, an internationally renowned Israeli political scientist and historian, presents a controversial new view of the fall of democracy and the rise of radical nationalism in the twentieth century. Sternhell locates their origins in the eighteenth century with the advent of the Anti-Enlightenment, far earlier than most historians. The thinkers belonging to the Anti-Enlightenment (a movement originally identified by

Friederich Nietzsche) represent a perspective that is antirational and

that rejects the principles of natural law and the rights of man. Sternhell asserts that the Anti-Enlightenment was a development separate from the Enlightenment and sees the two traditions as evolving parallel to one another over time. He contends that J. G. Herder and Edmund Burke are among the real founders of the Anti-Enlightenment and shows how that school undermined the very foundations of modern liberalism, finally contributing to the development of fascism that culminated in the European catastrophes of the twentieth century.