Record Nr. UNINA9910813377703321 Autore Ackerman Bruce **Titolo** We the people . 3, : the rights revolution / / Bruce Ackerman Cambridge, Massachusetts;; London, England:,: The Belknap Press Pubbl/distr/stampa of Harvard University Press, , 2014 ©2014 0-674-41649-X **ISBN** Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (432 p.) Collana We the People;; Volume 3 Disciplina 342.73029 Constitutional history - United States Soggetti Constitutional law - United States Civil rights movements - United States - History Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes index. Nota di contenuto Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction . Confronting the Twentieth Century -- PART ONE Defining the Canon --CHAPTER 1 Are We A Nation? -- CHAPTER 2 The Living Constitution --CHAPTER 3 The Assassin's Bullet -- CHAPTER 4 The New Deal Transformed -- CHAPTER 5 The Turning Point -- CHAPTER 6 Erasure by Judiciary? -- PART TWO Landmarks of Reconstruction -- CHAPTER 7 Spheres Of Humiliation -- CHAPTER 8 Spheres Of Calculation --CHAPTER 9 Technocracy In The Workplace -- CHAPTER 10 The Breakthrough Of 1968 -- PART THREE Dilemmas of Judicial Leadership -- CHAPTER 11 Brown's Fate -- CHAPTER 12 The Switch in Time --CHAPTER 13 Spheres of Intimacy -- CHAPTER 14 Betrayal? -- Notes --Index Sommario/riassunto The Civil Rights Revolution carries Bruce Ackerman's sweeping reinterpretation of constitutional history into the era beginning with Brown v. Board of Education. From Rosa Parks's courageous defiance, to Martin Luther King's resounding cadences in "I Have a Dream," to Lyndon Johnson's leadership of Congress, to the Supreme Court's decisions redefining the meaning of equality, the movement to end

racial discrimination decisively changed our understanding of the

Constitution. Ackerman anchors his discussion in the landmark statutes

of the 1960's: the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Challenging conventional legal analysis and arguing instead that constitutional politics won the day, he describes the complex interactions among branches of government-and also between government and the ordinary people who participated in the struggle. He showcases leaders such as Everett Dirksen, Hubert Humphrey, and Richard Nixon who insisted on real change, not just formal equality, for blacks and other minorities. The civil rights revolution transformed the Constitution, but not through judicial activism or Article V amendments. The breakthrough was the passage of laws that ended the institutionalized humiliations of Jim Crow and ensured equal rights at work, in schools, and in the voting booth. This legislation gained congressional approval only because of the mobilized support of the American people--and their principles deserve a central place in the nation's history. Ackerman's arguments are especially important at a time when the Roberts Court is actively undermining major achievements of America's Second Reconstruction.

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