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Titolo	States of credit : size, power, and the development of European polities // David Stasavage
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Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (207 p.)
Collana	The Princeton economic history of the Western world
Disciplina	336.3/4094
Soggetti	Debts, Public - Europe - History Credit - Europe - History Middle Ages Europe Politics and government Europe History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- The evolution and importance of public credit -- Representative assemblies in Europe, 1250-1750 -- Representation and credit in a broad sample of states -- Origins of city-states -- Three city-state experiences -- Three territorial state experiences -- Implications for state formation and development.
Sommario/riassunto	States of Credit provides the first comprehensive look at the joint development of representative assemblies and public borrowing in Europe during the medieval and early modern eras. In this pioneering book, David Stasavage argues that unique advances in political representation allowed certain European states to gain early and advantageous access to credit, but the emergence of an active form of political representation itself depended on two underlying factors: compact geography and a strong mercantile presence. Stasavage shows that active representative assemblies were more likely to be sustained in geographically small polities. These assemblies, dominated by mercantile groups that lent to governments, were in turn more likely to preserve access to credit. Given these conditions, smaller European

city-states, such as Genoa and Cologne, had an advantage over larger territorial states, including France and Castile, because mercantile elites structured political institutions in order to effectively monitor public credit. While creditor oversight of public funds became an asset for city-states in need of finance, Stasavage suggests that the long-run implications were more ambiguous. City-states with the best access to credit often had the most closed and oligarchic systems of representation, hindering their ability to accept new economic innovations. This eventually transformed certain city-states from economic dynamos into rentier republics. Exploring the links between representation and debt in medieval and early modern Europe, *States of Credit* contributes to broad debates about state formation and Europe's economic rise.
