

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910815022203321
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Titolo	The resurgence of the radical right in France : from Boulangisme to the Front National // Gabriel Goodliffe
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2011
ISBN	1-107-22754-2 1-139-20967-1 1-280-48509-4 1-139-22256-2 9786613580078 1-139-21775-5 1-139-01493-5 1-139-21467-5 1-139-22427-1 1-139-22084-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 361 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	324.244/03
Soggetti	Right-wing extremists - France - History - 20th century Right-wing extremists - France - History - 21st century France Politics and government 20th century France Social conditions 20th century France Politics and government 21st century France Social conditions 21st century
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	Defining the radical right in France, past and present -- The class-cultural roots of the radical right : structures and expressions of independance -- The age of contentment : petits independants during the Belle Epoque -- The fateful transition : petits independants in the interwar period -- The eclipse of the petty producer Republic : petits independants from Vichy through the Fourth Republic -- The age of decline : petits independants under the Fifth Republic -- Epilogue : French workers in crisis and the entrenchment of the Front National --

The radical right in France in comparative perspective.

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Sommario/riassunto

This book attempts to account for the resurgence of significant political movements of the Radical Right in France since the establishment of democracy in the country at the end of the nineteenth century. Taking to task historical treatments of the Radical Right for their failure to specify the conditions and dynamics attending its emergence, and faulting the historical myopia of contemporary electoral and party-centric accounts of the Front National, it tries to explain the Radical Right's continuing appeal by relating the socio-structural outcomes of the processes of industrialization and democratization in France to the persistence of economically and politically illiberal groups within French society. Specifically, the book argues that, as a result of the country's protracted and uneven experience of industrialization and urbanization, significant pre- or anti-modern social classes, which remained functionally ill-adapted and culturally ill-disposed to industrial capitalism and liberal democracy, subsisted late into its development.

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