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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (363 p.)
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Surveying the think tank landscape in the United States and Canada -- Thinking about think tanks : a conceptual framework -- In the arena : opportunities, constraints, and incentives for think tanks in the United States and Canada -- Competing in the marketplace of ideas : the strategies of think tanks -- Public visibility and policy relevance : assessing the influence of think tanks -- On the road to the White House : presidential candidates and the think tanks that advised them -- Policy experts or policy instruments? Think tanks and the debate over constitutional reform in Canada -- Conclusion : the more things change ... policy influence, policy relevance, and the future of think tanks in Canada, the United States, and beyond.
Sommario/riassunto	It is often assumed that think tanks carry enormous weight with lawmakers. In Do Think Tanks Matter? Donald Abelson argues that the basic question of how think tanks have evolved and under what conditions they can and do have an effect is consistently ignored. Think tank directors often credit their institutes with influencing major policy

debates and government legislation and many journalists and scholars believe the explosion of think tanks in the latter part of the twentieth century indicates their growing importance in the policy-making process. Abelson goes beyond assumptions, identifying the influence and relevance of public policy institutes in today's political arena in the United States, where they've become an integral feature of the political landscape, and in Canada, where, despite recent growth in numbers, they enjoy less prominence than their US counterparts. By focusing on the policy cycle, issue articulation, policy formation, and implementation, Abelson argues that individual think tanks have sometimes played an important role in shaping the political dialogue and the policy preferences and choices of decision-makers but often in different ways and at different stages of the policy cycle. This revised and updated edition of the book includes up-to-date data (2000-08) on the growing visibility and policy relevance of think tanks in Canada and the United States.
