

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817348403321
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Titolo	Government versus markets : the changing economic role of the state / / Vito Tanzi [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2011
ISBN	1-139-08892-0 1-107-22243-5 1-139-09042-9 1-283-12758-X 1-139-09274-X 9786613127587 0-511-97315-2 1-139-09223-5 1-139-09133-6 1-139-09326-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 376 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	BUS069020
Disciplina	338.9
Soggetti	Trade regulation Economic policy
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	Machine generated contents note: Preface; Part I. Economic Role of State: 1. General introduction and main issues; Part II. Historical Review: 2. The role of the state in the pre World War Two period; 3. Forces that changed the role of the state; 4. Growth of public spending in the 20th century; 5. The role of the state in social protection: historical landmarks; 6. Globalization and public spending; Part III. Theoretical and Analytical Issues: 7. Theories of public sector behavior: taxonomy of government types; 8. Voluntary exchange and public choice theories; 9. The Nord European economic theory of fiscal policy; 10. Policy tools and government roles; Part IV. The Outcome of State Intervention: 11. Evaluating the impact of public spending on socio-economic indicators; 12. Social protection in the modern world:

quantitative aspects; 13. The role of the state and economic performance in the Nordic countries; Part V. Reflections on The Role of the State in the Future: 14. The economic role of the state in the future: concluding observations.

Sommario/riassunto

Vito Tanzi offers a truly comprehensive treatment of the economic role of the state in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries from a historical and world perspective. The book addresses the fundamental question of what governments should do, or have attempted to do, in economic activities in past and recent periods. It also speculates on what they are likely or may be forced to do in future years. The investigation assembles a large set of statistical information that should prove useful to policy-makers and scholars in the perennial discussion of government's optimal economic roles. It will become an essential reference work on the analytical borders between the market and the state, and on what a reasonable 'exit strategy' from the current fiscal crises should be.
