

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817494203321
Titolo	Shaping abortion discourse : democracy and the public sphere in Germany and the United States // Myra Marx Ferree ... [et al.]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, UK ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2002
ISBN	1-107-12130-2 1-280-42987-9 0-511-17731-3 0-511-04110-1 0-511-15827-0 0-511-30492-7 0-511-61368-7 0-511-04661-8
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xx, 350 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Communication, society, and politics
Altri autori (Persone)	FerreeMyra Marx
Disciplina	363.46/0943
Soggetti	Abortion - Political aspects - Germany Abortion - Political aspects - United States Abortion - Press coverage - Germany Abortion - Press coverage - United States Pro-choice movement - Germany Pro-choice movement - United States Pro-life movement - Germany Pro-life movement - United States Germany Politics and government 20th century United States Politics and government 20th 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 (p. 325-337) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Series-title; Title; Copyright; Contents; Tables and Figures; Foreword; Preface; Glossary; Part I Introduction; Part II Major Outcomes; Part III Representing Different Constituencies; Part IV The Quality of Abortion Discourse; Methodological Appendix; References; Index

## Sommario/riassunto

Using controversy over abortion as a lens through which to compare the political process and role of the media in these two very different democracies, this book examines the contest over meaning that is being waged by social movements, political parties, churches and other social actors. Abortion is a critical battleground for debates over social values in both countries, but the constitutional premises on which arguments rest differ, as do the strategies that movements and parties adopt and the opportunities for influence that are open to them. By examining how these debates are conducted and by whom in light of the normative claims made by democratic theorists, the book also offers a means of judging how well either country lives up to the ideals of democratic debate in practice.

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