

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818037503321
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Titolo	Electing the senate : indirect democracy before the seventeenth amendment // Wendy J. Schiller, Charles Stewart III
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton : , : Princeton University Press, , [2015] ©2015
ISBN	0-691-16317-0 1-4008-5268-4
Edizione	[Pilot project. eBook available to selected US libraries only]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (257 p.)
Collana	Princeton studies in American politics: historical, international, and comparative perspectives
Classificazione	POL008000POL006000POL010000HIS036040
Disciplina	328.73/0734
Soggetti	Wahlsystem POLITICAL SCIENCE / Political Process / Campaigns & Elections United States Politics and government
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Illustrations -- Tables -- Preface -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. A Theory of Indirect Election -- Chapter 3. Candidate Emergence, Political Ambition, and Seat Value -- Chapter 4. Party as Gatekeeper: Canvass, Convention, and Caucus as Nomination Mechanisms -- Chapter 5. Political Dynamics and Senate Representation -- Chapter 6. Senate Electoral Responsiveness under Indirect and Direct Election -- Chapter 7. Myth and Reality of the Seventeenth Amendment -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	"From 1789 to 1913, U.S. senators were not directly elected by the people--instead the Constitution mandated that they be chosen by state legislators. This radically changed in 1913, when the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, giving the public a direct vote. Electing the Senate investigates the electoral connections among constituents, state legislators, political parties, and U.S. senators during the age of indirect elections. Wendy Schiller and Charles Stewart find that even though parties controlled the partisan affiliation of the winning candidate for Senate, they had much less control over the universe of candidates who competed for votes in Senate elections and

the parties did not always succeed in resolving internal conflict among their rank and file. Party politics, money, and personal ambition dominated the election process, in a system originally designed to insulate the Senate from public pressure. Electing the Senate uses an original data set of all the roll call votes cast by state legislators for U.S. senators from 1871 to 1913 and all state legislators who served during this time. Newspaper and biographical accounts uncover vivid stories of the political maneuvering, corruption, and partisanship--played out by elite political actors, from elected officials, to party machine bosses, to wealthy business owners--that dominated the indirect Senate elections process. Electing the Senate raises important questions about the effectiveness of Constitutional reforms, such as the Seventeenth Amendment, that promised to produce a more responsive and accountable government. "--
