

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820301703321
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Titolo	Journalism and democracy : an evaluation of the political public sphere // Brian McNair
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York, : Routledge, 2000
ISBN	1-134-61491-8 1-282-77744-0 0-203-02128-2 9786612777448 1-283-70800-0 1-134-61492-6
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (217 p.)
Disciplina	072/.09/045
Soggetti	Journalism - Political aspects - Great Britain Press and politics - Great Britain Public interest - Great Britain Democracy
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 (p. 180-198) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Title; Copyright; CONTENTS
Sommario/riassunto	The public sphere is said to be in crisis. Dumbing down, tabloidisation, infotainment and spin are alleged to contaminate it, adversely affecting the quality of political journalism and of democracy itself. There is a pervasive pessimism about the relationship between the media and democracy, and widespread concern for the future of the political process. Journalism and Democracy challenges this orthodoxy, arguing instead for an alternative, more optimistic evaluation of the contemporary public sphere and its contribution to the political process. Brian McNair argues not only that