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| Autore | McCall Leslie <1964-> |
| Titolo | The undeserving rich : American beliefs about inequality, opportunity, and redistribution // Leslie McCall, Northwestern University [[electronic resource]] |
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| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (xvii, 300 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) |
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| Soggetti | Income distribution - United States Equality - United States United States Economic conditions |
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| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Machine generated contents note: 1. Introduction: thinking about income inequality; 2. Beyond the opposition between opportunity and inequality: theories of beliefs about inequality from the nineteenth century to the present; 3. The emergence of a new social issue: media coverage of income inequality and social class in the United States, 1980-2010; 4. American beliefs about income inequality: what, when, who, and why; 5. Why do Americans care about income inequality? The role of opportunity; 6. Social policy preferences in the era of rising inequality; 7. Conclusion: a new era of beliefs about inequality. |
| Sommario/riassunto | It is widely assumed that Americans care little about income inequality, believe opportunities abound, admire the rich, and dislike redistributive |

policies. Leslie McCall contends that such assumptions are based on both incomplete survey data and economic conditions of the past and not present. In fact, Americans have desired less inequality for decades, and McCall's book explains why. Americans become most concerned about inequality in times of inequitable growth, when they view the rich as prospering while opportunities for good jobs, fair pay and high quality education are restricted for everyone else. As a result, they favor policies to expand opportunity and redistribute earnings in the workplace, reducing inequality in the market rather than redistributing income after the fact with tax and spending policies. This book resolves the paradox of how Americans can express little enthusiasm for welfare state policies and still yearn for a more equitable society, and forwards a new model of preferences about income inequality rooted in labor market opportunities rather than welfare state policies.
