

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820533603321
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Titolo	Principles of group solidarity / / Michael Hechter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 1988
ISBN	1-282-35542-2 9786612355424 0-520-90897-X
Edizione	[First paperback edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 219 pages) : illustrations
Collana	California series on social choice and political economy ; ; 11
Disciplina	303.3/3
Soggetti	Solidarity Social groups Social choice Social control
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	First paperback printing 1988.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 187-209) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Tables And Figures -- Preface -- I. Introduction -- II. The Problem -- III. A Theory Of Group Solidarity -- IV. The Necessity Of Formal Controls -- V. Dependence And Party Solidarity -- VI. The Production Of Formal Controls -- VII. The Limits Of Compensation In Capitalist Firms -- VIII. Economizing On Control Costs In Intentional Communities -- IX. Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Social scientists have long recognized that solidarity is essential for such phenomena as social order, class, and ethnic consciousness, and the provision of collective goods. In presenting a new general theory of group solidarity, Michael Hechter here contends that it is indeed possible to build a theory of solidarity based on the action of rational individuals and in doing so he goes beyond the timeworn disciplinary boundaries separating the various social sciences.