

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910823830803321
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Titolo	When majorities fail : the Russian Parliament, 1990-1993 // Josephine T. Andrews
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge ; ; New York, : Cambridge University Press, 2002
ISBN	1-107-13031-X 1-280-43035-4 0-511-17827-1 0-511-04140-3 0-511-14873-9 0-511-33050-2 0-511-51060-8 0-511-04754-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 284 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Political economy of institutions and decisions
Disciplina	328.47/09/049
Soggetti	Legislative bodies - Russia (Federation) Representative government and representation - Russia (Federation)
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. 259-267) and index.
Nota di contenuto	; 1. Introduction -- ; 2. Cycling in Action: Russia's Constitutional Crisis -- ; 3. Cycling and its Consequences: A Theoretical Framework -- ; 4. Institutional Design and Implications for Majority Rule -- ; 5. Issue Dimensions and Partisan Alliances -- ; 6. The Structure of Preferences -- ; 7. Legislative Instability -- ; 8. The Dynamics of Agenda Control in the Russian Parliament -- ; 9. Implications of Disequilibrium in Transitional Legislatures.
Sommario/riassunto	When Majorities Fail is a study of institutional failure in Russia's first democratic legislature. Inadequate rules and a chaotic party system combined to make it nearly impossible to pass a coherent legislative program, including a new constitution. The internal instability in Russia's parliament is known as cycling, one of the most important theoretical concepts in formal study of legislatures. There are few recorded cases of cycling in politically important settings. This book

documents the presence of cyclical majorities in Russian Parliament with comprehensive case and statistical analysis, and demonstrates how the failure to adopt a new constitution led to the confrontation between parliament and president in the fall of 1993. Earlier research has shown that the design of a legislative institution is crucial in preventing cycling. The author shows how the institutional design of the parliament failed, underscoring the importance of institutional design in a democratic transition.
