

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910824514903321
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Titolo	Barrio rising : urban popular politics and the making of modern Venezuela / / Alejandro Velasco
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oakland, California : , : University of California Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-520-95918-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (343 p.)
Disciplina	987.06/3
Soggetti	Political participation - Venezuela - Caracas City planning - Political aspects - Venezuela - Caracas Squatters - Political activity - Venezuela - Caracas Venezuela Politics and government 20th century
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 -- PREFACE -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- Introduction: A History of Place and Nation -- 1. Dictatorship's Blocks: The Battle for the New Urban Venezuela -- 2. Democracy's Projects: Occupying the Spaces of Revolution -- 3. From Ballots to Bullets: The Rise of Urban Insurgency, 1958-1963 -- 4. "The Fight Was Fierce": Uncertain Victories in the Streets and the Polls, 1963-1969 -- 5. Water, Women, and Protest: The Return of Local Activism, 1969-1977 -- 6. "A Weapon as Powerful as the Vote": Seizing the Promise of Participation, 1979-1988 -- 7. Killing Democracy's Promise: A Massacre of People and Expectations -- Conclusion: Revolutionary Projects -- APPENDIX -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	Beginning in the late 1950's political leaders in Venezuela built what they celebrated as Latin America's most stable democracy. But outside the staid halls of power, in the gritty barrios of a rapidly urbanizing country, another politics was rising-unruly, contentious, and clamoring for inclusion. Based on years of archival and ethnographic research in Venezuela's largest public housing community, Barrio Rising delivers the first in-depth history of urban popular politics before the Bolivarian

Revolution, providing crucial context for understanding the democracy that emerged during the presidency of Hugo Chávez. In the mid-1950's, a military government bent on modernizing Venezuela razed dozens of slums in the heart of the capital Caracas, replacing them with massive buildings to house the city's working poor. The project remained unfinished when the dictatorship fell on January 23, 1958, and in a matter of days city residents illegally occupied thousands of apartments, squatted on green spaces, and renamed the neighborhood to honor the emerging democracy: the 23 de Enero (January 23). During the next thirty years, through eviction efforts, guerrilla conflict, state violence, internal strife, and official neglect, inhabitants of el veintitrés learned to use their strategic location and symbolic tie to the promise of democracy in order to demand a better life. Granting legitimacy to the state through the vote but protesting its failings with violent street actions when necessary, they laid the foundation for an expansive understanding of democracy-both radical and electoral-whose features still resonate today. Blending rich narrative accounts with incisive analyses of urban space, politics, and everyday life, *Barrio Rising* offers a sweeping reinterpretation of modern Venezuelan history as seen not by its leaders but by residents of one of the country's most distinctive popular neighborhoods.
