

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910824571503321
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Titolo	Institutions and the fate of democracy : Germany and Poland in the twentieth century // Michael Bernhard
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Pittsburgh : , : University of Pittsburgh Press, , [2005] ©2005
ISBN	0-8229-7275-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (328 p.)
Collana	Pitt series in Russian and East European studies
Disciplina	320.943
Soggetti	Democracy - Germany - History Democracy - Poland - History Constitutional history - Germany Constitutional history - Poland Germany Politics and government 20th century Poland 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	""Contents""; ""List of Illustrations""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""List of Abbreviations""; ""1. Institutional Choice and Democratic Survival in New Democracies""; ""2. Weimar Germany: Defective Institutional Choice""; ""3. Interwar Poland: Institutional Choice by Imposition""; ""4. The Federal Republic of Germany: Learning from History""; ""5. Postcommunist Poland: Institutional Choice as an Extended Process""; ""6. Conclusion""; ""Notes""; ""References""; ""Index""
Sommario/riassunto	As democracy has swept the globe, the question of why some democracies succeed while others fail has remained a pressing concern. In this theoretically innovative, richly historical study, Michael Bernhard looks at the process by which new democracies choose their political institutions, showing how these fundamental choices shape democracy's survival. Offering a new analytical framework that maps the process by which basic political institutions emerge, Bernhard investigates four paradigmatic episodes of democracy in two countries: Germany during the Weimar period and after World War II, a

