

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910826552603321
Autore	Handler Joel F
Titolo	Down from bureaucracy : the ambiguity of privatization and empowerment // Joel F. Handler
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, N.J., : Princeton University Press, c1996
ISBN	1-4008-0340-3 1-282-75302-9 9786612753022 1-4008-2198-3 1-4008-1197-X
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (280 pages)
Collana	The William G. Bowen Series ; ; 24
Disciplina	350/.000973
Soggetti	Decentralization in government - United States Community power - United States Power (Social sciences) - United States Privatization - United States Decentralization in government Welfare state Schools - Decentralization - Illinois - Chicago United States 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 (p. [243]-260) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- PART I: The Organization of the Welfare State: Public and Private -- Chapter 2. The Context of Decentralization -- Chapter 3. The Uses of Decentralization -- Chapter 4. Privatization -- PART II: The View from Below: Empowerment by Invitation, Empowerment through Conflict -- Chapter 5. Power and Empowerment -- Chapter 6. Empowerment by Invitation -- Chapter 7. Empowerment through Conflict: School Reform -- Chapter 8. Conclusion -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Throughout the world, politicians are dismantling state enterprises and heaping praise on private markets, while in the United States a new

rhetoric of "citizen empowerment" links a widespread distrust of government to decentralization and privatization. Here Joel Handler asks whether this restructuring of authority really allows ordinary citizens to take more control of the things that matter in their roles as parents and children, teachers and students, tenants and owners, producers and consumers. Looking at citizens as stakeholders in the modern social welfare state created by the New Deal, he traces the surprising ideological shifts of empowerment from its beginning as a cornerstone of the war on poverty in the 1960's to its central place in conservative market-based voucher schemes for school reform in the 1990's. Handler shows that in the past the gains from decentralization have proved to be more symbol than substance: some disadvantaged members of society will find new opportunities in the changes of the 1990's, but others will simply experience powerlessness under another name. He carefully distinguishes "empowerment by invitation" (in special education, worker safety, home health care, public housing tenancy, and neighborhood organizations) from the "empowerment by conflict" exemplified by the radical decentralization of the Chicago public schools. What emerges is a map of the major pitfalls and possible successes in the current journey away from a discredited regulatory state.

---