Record Nr. UNINA9910826796403321 Autore Halfmann Drew Titolo Doctors and demonstrators: how political institutions shape abortion law in the United States, Britain, and Canada / / Drew Halfmann Chicago,: University of Chicago Press, 2011 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-29761-2 9786613297617 0-226-31344-1 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (368 p.) Disciplina 342.08/4 Abortion - Law and legislation - United States Soggetti Abortion - Law and legislation - Great Britain Abortion - Law and legislation - Canada Abortion - Political aspects - United States Abortion - Political aspects - Great Britain Abortion - Political aspects - Canada 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. Abortion reforms of the long 1960s -- The reforms and their roots --Nota di contenuto Medical interests and priorities -- After reform -- Abortion services --The politicization of abortion -- Policy change after reform -- Political institutions and abortion policy -- Appendix 1. Statements on abortion in American party platforms, 1972-2008 -- Appendix 2. U.S. Supreme Court cases on abortion -- Appendix 3. Abortion attitudes in the United States and Britain -- Appendix 4. Abortion funding and provision in the United States, Britain, and Canada, 1970s-2000s --Appendix 5. Abortion attitudes in the United States, Britain, and Canada, 1975-2004. Sommario/riassunto Since Roe v. Wade, abortion has continued to be a divisive political issue in the United States. In contrast, it has remained primarily a medical issue in Britain and Canada despite the countries' shared heritage. Doctors and Demonstrators looks beyond simplistic cultural or religious explanations to find out why abortion politics and policies

differ so dramatically in these otherwise similar countries. Drew

Halfmann argues that political institutions are the key. In the United States, federalism, judicial review, and a private health care system contributed to the public definition of abortion as an individual right rather than a medical necessity. Meanwhile, Halfmann explains, the porous structure of American political parties gave pro-choice and prolife groups the opportunity to move the issue onto the political agenda. A groundbreaking study of the complex legal and political factors behind the evolution of abortion policy, Doctors and Demonstrators will be vital for anyone trying to understand this contentious issue.