Record Nr. UNINA9910827630903321 **Titolo** 

Steep: the precipitous rise of the Tea Party / / edited by Lawrence

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Pubbl/distr/stampa Berkeley,: University of California Press, c2012

**ISBN** 1-283-54322-2

9786613855671 0-520-95410-6

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (306 p.)

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Disciplina 320.520973

Soggetti Tea Party movement

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

**Formato** Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

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Sommario/riassunto In the Spring of 2009, the Tea Party emerged onto the American

political scene. In the wake of Obama's election, as commentators proclaimed the "death of conservatism," Tax Day rallies and Tea Party showdowns at congressional town hall meetings marked a new and unexpected chapter in American conservatism. Accessible to students and general readers, Steep: The Precipitous Rise of the Tea Party brings together leading scholars and experts on the American Right to examine a political movement that electrified American society. Topics addressed by the volume's contributors include the Tea Party's roots in earlier mass movements of the Right and in distinctive forms of American populism and conservatism, the significance of class, race and gender to the rise and successes of the Tea Party, the effect of the Tea Party on the Republican Party, the relationship between the Tea Party and the Religious Right, and the contradiction between the grassroots nature of the Tea Party and the established political financing behind it. Throughout the volume, authors provide detailed and often surprising accounts of the movement's development at local and national levels. In an Epilogue, the Editors address the relationship between the Tea Party and the Occupy Wall Street movement.