

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910828288103321
Titolo	Coordination and information : historical perspectives on the organization of enterprise // edited by Naomi R. Lamoreaux and Daniel M.G. Raff
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 1995
ISBN	1-281-22379-4 9786611223793 0-226-46858-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (348 p.)
Collana	A National Bureau of Economic Research Conference report
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Disciplina	338.7 658.4038
Soggetti	Business intelligence Comparative organization Industrial organization (Economic theory) Industrial organization - History Industrial organization - United States - History
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 indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- National Bureau of Economic Research -- Contents -- Introduction: History and Theory in Search of One Another -- 1. The Puzzling Profusion of Compensation Systems in the Interwar Automobile Industry -- 2. Industrial Engineering and the Industrial Enterprise, 1890-1940 -- 3. The Coordination of Business Organization and Technological Innovation within the Firm: A Case Study of the Thomson- Houston Electric Company in the 1880's -- 4. Organization and Coordination in Geographically Concentrated Industries -- 5. The Boundaries of the U.S. Firm in R&D -- 6. Legal Restraints on Economic Coordination: Antitrust in Great Britain and America, 1880-1920 -- 7. The Evolution of Interregional Mortgage Lending Channels, 1870-1940: The Life Insurance-Mortgage Company Connection -- 8. The Costs of Rejecting Universal Banking: American Finance in the German Mirror, 1870-1914 -- Contributors -- Name

Sommario/riassunto

Case studies that examine how firms coordinate economic activity in the face of asymmetric information-information not equally available to all parties-are the focus of this volume. In an ideal world, the market would be the optimal provider of coordination, but in the real world of incomplete information, some activities are better coordinated in other ways. Divided into three parts, this book addresses coordination within firms, at the borders of firms, and outside firms, providing a picture of the overall incidence and logic of economic coordination. The case studies-drawn from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, when the modern business enterprise was evolving, address such issues as the relationship between coordination mechanisms and production techniques, the logic of coordination in industrial districts, and the consequences of regulation for coordination. Continuing the work on information and organization presented in the influential *Inside the Business Enterprise*, this book provides material for business historians and economists who want to study the development of the dissemination of information and the coordination of economic activity within and between firms.
