Record Nr. UNINA9910828463903321 Autore Gargarella Roberto <1964-> **Titolo** The legal foundations of inequality: constitutionalism in the Americas, 1776-1860 / / Roberto Gargarella Cambridge:,: Cambridge University Press,, 2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-107-20491-7 0-511-84732-7 1-282-63065-2 9786612630651 0-511-74987-2 0-511-74912-0 0-511-74332-7 0-511-74225-8 0-511-75061-7 0-511-74440-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (ix, 273 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Collana Cambridge studies in the theory of democracy:: 8 Disciplina 342.8029 Soggetti Constitutional history - Latin America Constitutional history - United States Equality before the law - Latin America Equality before the law - United States Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Introduction -- Radicalism: honoring the general will --Conservativism: the moral cement of society -- Liberalism: between tyranny and anarchy -- The quest for equality. Sommario/riassunto The long revolutionary movements that gave birth to constitutional democracies in the Americas were founded on egalitarian constitutional ideals. They claimed that all men were created equal with similar capacities and also that the community should become self-governing. Following the first constitutional debates that took place in the region, these promising egalitarian claims, which gave legitimacy to the revolutions, soon fell out of favor. Advocates of a conservative order

challenged both ideals and favored constitutions that established religion and created an exclusionary political structure. Liberals proposed constitutions that protected individual autonomy and rights but established severe restrictions on the principle of majority rule. Radicals favored an openly majoritarian constitutional organization that, according to many, directly threatened the protection of individual rights. This book examines the influence of these opposite views during the 'founding period' of constitutionalism in countries including the United States, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela.