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Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1: Introduction -- Chapter 2: What Kind of Liberalism is this Book After? -- Chapter 3: From National Liberals towards their Heirs: Developmental Patterns in Central European Liberal Party Traditions, 1867-1918 -- Chapter 4: Semantics of Liberalism: What did it Mean to be 'Liberal' in Interwar Czech, Austrian and Slovene Contexts? -- Chapter 5: 'National Liberal Heirs' as Region-Specific Type of Political Party -- Chapter 6: 'National Liberals' Devoid of Liberalism? Nationalist Conceptions and Rhetoric: Continuities and Change -- Chapter 7: Limited Government vs. the 'New Order' -- Chapter 8: A Glimpse

Beyond Party Politics.

Sommario/riassunto

“In an age of increasing illiberalism in Europe today, this persuasive study of liberal politics and parties in the interwar years is a welcome addition to our understanding of that slippery, yet critical political concept: liberalism.” —Pieter M. Judson, European University Institute
“Oskar Mulej’s path-breaking book traces various attempts to salvage at least some liberal values and institutions in a non-liberal age and region: interwar Central Europe.” —Maciej Janowski, Polish Academy of Sciences
This book explores what it meant to be ‘liberal’ in interwar Czech, Austrian, and Slovenian politics. Up until 1918, these countries shared the common political framework of Cisleithania (the Austrian part of the Habsburg Monarchy). Within this framework was the predominantly pejorative function of the label ‘liberal,’ and as a result after 1918, no major political party employed it to describe its own political orientation. Despite making considerable efforts to dissociate themselves from liberalism, many parties continued to be referred to as ‘liberal’ by the contemporary public. This association with liberalism, the book argues, was primarily due to the parties’ historical background rather than any ideological commitment to liberalism, and for that reason, the author refers to them as ‘national liberal heirs.’ Examining the (dis)continuities of liberal party traditions, the book presents three representative cases of national liberal heirs: the Czechoslovak National Democracy; the Greater German People's Party; and the Slovenian sections of the Yugoslav Democratic Party, the Independent Democratic Party, and the Yugoslav National Party. Forming a distinctive part of early twentieth-century party landscapes in Central Europe, the national liberal heirs had inherited organisational structures, parts of electorate, as well as rootedness in specific cultural and social milieus from their liberal predecessors. Following the political trajectories of the national liberal heirs, the author seeks to answer in which spheres, in which manners, and to what extent liberalism survived or even continued to develop in the interwar Czech lands, Austria, and Slovenia. Oskar Mulej is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Vienna in Austria.