

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910954117603321
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Titolo	Eloquence and reason : creating a First Amendment culture // Robert L. Tsai
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2008
ISBN	9786612351594 9781282351592 1282351591 9780300151879 030015187X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (xiii, 198 p.))
Disciplina	342.7308/53
Soggetti	Freedom of speech - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Freedom as a Matter of Faith -- 2. Metaphor and Community -- 3. Linguistic Transformation -- 4. Political Pathways -- 5. War and Syntax -- 6. Adjudication as Facilitation -- Coda -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This provocative book presents a theory of the First Amendment's development. During the twentieth century, Americans gained trust in its commitments, turned the First Amendment into an instrument for social progress, and exercised their rhetorical freedom to create a common language of rights. Robert L. Tsai explains that the guarantees of the First Amendment have become part of a governing culture and nationwide priority. Examining the rhetorical tactics of activists, presidents, and lawyers, he illustrates how committed citizens seek to promote or destabilize a convergence in constitutional ideas. Eloquence and Reason reveals the social and institutional processes through which foundational ideas are generated and defends a cultural role for the courts.