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Nota di contenuto	Comparing apples and mangoes -- The mischaracterization of Third World experiences -- Setting the framework: comparing apples and mangoes -- Politics and overpoliticization -- Sins of universalism and particularism -- From the behavioral revolution to modernization theory -- Democratization by institutional fiat -- Universalism from the left -- Particularism and anti-third worldism -- Particularism in South America, Asia, and Africa -- Conclusion -- Overpoliticization: empirical and historical evidence -- Overpoliticized behaviors in democratic regimes -- Overpoliticized behaviors in authoritarian regimes -- Overpoliticized behaviors common to democratic and authoritarian regimes -- Overpoliticized behaviors in Western countries -- Conclusion: differences and similarities -- Overpoliticization : quantitative evidence -- Data and procedure -- Results and interpretation -- Conclusion: differences and similarities -- Understanding the overpoliticized state -- Political institutions and the state as effects of politics -- Compromise-resistant politics and the

overpoliticized state -- The liberal democratic state as the conceptual contrast -- Basic hypotheses about the overpoliticized state -- What explains liberal compromise? -- What explains overpoliticization? -- Conclusion.

Sommario/riassunto

Two competing approaches currently dominate the debate about the state and institutions in developing countries. The first projects a picture of transnational, vertical uniformity descending from the West to developing countries and views liberal democracy as "the only game in town." In this view, the state and institutions resemble or ought to resemble those in the West. The second, by contrast, explains political outcomes by local idiosyncrasies and regional variations in institutions. In his original approach to third world politics, S. N. Sangmpam challenges both views by uncovering important similarities in the political features of developing countries. He shows that they share political behaviors and features unaccounted for in either local/idiosyncratic or liberal democratic theories. These behaviors converge toward a common property—overpoliticization—that defies political compromise, leading to an overpoliticized state. Sangmpam provides a wealth of empirical, historical, and quantitative evidence from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the West and demonstrates the overpoliticized state constitutes the cornerstone of an integrated theory of politics in developing countries.
