

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910961718203321
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Titolo	The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics : The Personalities, Elections, and Events That Shaped Modern North Carolina
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chapel Hill, : The University of North Carolina Press, 2010
ISBN	979-88-9313-010-2 979-88-908402-2-6 1-4696-0628-3 0-8078-9963-1
Edizione	[2nd ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (372 p.)
Disciplina	975.6043
Soggetti	North Carolina -- Politics and government -- 1865-1950 North Carolina -- Politics and government -- 1951- Political culture -- North Carolina
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Acknowledgments; Introduction; Prologue; CHAPTER 1. The Simmons Machine; CHAPTER 2. The Shelby Dynasty; CHAPTER 3. Branchhead Boys; CHAPTER 4. The Last of the Conservative Democrats; CHAPTER 5. Dixie Dynamo; CHAPTER 6. Jessecrats; CHAPTER 7. Jim Hunt and the Democratic Revival; CHAPTER 8. Phoenix Rising; CHAPTER 9. A New Century; Epilogue; Appendix; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	How can a state be represented by Jesse Helms and John Edwards at the same time? Journalist Rob Christensen answers that question and navigates a century of political history in North Carolina, one of the most politically vibrant and competitive southern states, where neither conservatives nor liberals, Democrats nor Republicans, have been able to rest easy. It is this climate of competition and challenge, Christensen argues, that enabled North Carolina to rise from poverty in the nineteenth century to become a leader in research, education, and banking in the twentieth. In this new pa