

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910962388003321
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Titolo	Popular contention in Great Britain, 1758-1834 // Charles Tilly
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 2016
ISBN	1-317-25380-9 1-315-63269-1 1-317-25379-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (519 p.)
Disciplina	322.440941
Soggetti	Working class - Political activity - Great Britain - History - 18th century Working class - Political activity - Great Britain - History - 19th century Popular culture - Great Britain - History - 18th century Popular culture - Great Britain - History - 19th century Dissenters - Great Britain - History - 18th century Dissenters - Great Britain - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"First published 2005 by Paradigm Publishers"--t.p. verso.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half Title; Title Page; Copyright page; Dedication; Table of Contents; LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS; PREFACE; INTRODUCTION; ABBREVIATIONS; 1. FROM MUTINY TO MASS MOBILIZATION; Contention in 1833; What Changedy and Why?; What's at Issue?; Contending Ideas; Common Action and Shared Understanding; Repertoires of Contention; Insistent Questions, Possible Answers; What's to Come; 2. CONTENTION UNDER A MAGNIFYING GLASS; A Change of Repertoires; Problems, Sources, Methods; A Calendar of Contention; Numbering the Struggles; Forms of Contention, Old and New 3. CAPITAL, STATE, AND CLASS IN BRITAIN, 1750-1840Proletarians, Landlords, and Others; The Growth of Industry; Urbanization; Income and Inequality; War and the British State; Repression in Britain; Popular Participation in National Politics; Social Movements and Democracy; 4. WILKES, GORDON, AND POPULAR VENGEANCE, 1758-1788; How Britain Was Changing; Contentions Flow; How the Repertoire Worked; Against Poorhouses and Enclosures; Workers' Contention; Mutations; 5. REVOLUTION, WAR, AND OTHER STRUGGLES, 1789-1815; Associations

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Action; Contending with Associations; Political Entrepreneurs, Radicals,
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Sommario/riassunto

'A rich and thoughtful book.' History 'A magnificent empirical resource accompanied by a subtle and powerful framework of interpretation...It is not often that historical scholarship is so effectively harnessed to the sociological imagination.' American Journal of Sociology 'This is a masterpiece of social movement analysis by an author at the peak of his analytical powers making full use of one of the most extensive evidence files available.' Mobilization
Between 1750 and 1840 ordinary British people abandoned such time-honored forms of protest as collective seizures of grain, the sacking of buildings, public humiliation, and physical abuse in favor of marches, petition drives, public meetings, and other sanctioned routines of social movement politics. The change created - for the first time anywhere - mass participation in national politics. Charles Tilly is the first to address the depth and significance of the transformations in popular collective action during this period. The author elucidates four distinct phases in the transformation to mass political participation and identifies the forms and occasions for collective action that characterized and dominated each. He provides rich descriptions, not only of a wide variety of popular protests, but also of such influential figures as John Wilkes, Lord George Gordon, William Cobbett, and Daniel O'Connell.
