Record Nr. UNINA9910965279403321 Autore Allen David S. <1955-> Titolo Democracy, Inc: the press and law in the corporate rationalization of the public sphere / / David S. Allen Urbana, : University of Illinois Press, c2005 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 9786613077349 9781283077347 1283077345 9780252090400 0252090403 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (217 p.) Collana The history of communication Disciplina 343.7309/98 Soggetti Press law - United States Corporate state - United States **Democracy - United States** Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [161]-194) and index. Nota di contenuto The rise of corporate rationalization -- Corporate rationalization and discourse democracy: seeking alternatives -- Professionalization of the press and law: routinization and management -- Defining a professional mission: the law and the question of public representation -- Corporate ownership and the press : collapsing distinctions --Public television, parks, parades, and rest areas: managing the property of public life -- Resisting corporate rationalization: toward a discourse theory of the First Amendment. Sommario/riassunto In Democracy, Inc., David S. Allen exposes the vested interests behind the U.S. slide toward conflating corporate values with public and democratic values. He argues that rather than being institutional protectors of democratic principles, the press and law perversely contribute to the destruction of public discourse in the United States today. Allen utilizes historical, philosophical, sociological, and legal

sources to trace America's gradual embrace of corporate values. He argues that such values, including winning, efficiency, and profitability

actually limit democratic involvement by devaluing discursive

principles, creating an informed yet inactive public. Through an examination of professionalization in both the press and the law, corporate free speech rights, and free speech as property, Democracy, Inc. demonstrates that today's democracy is more about trying to control and manage citizens than giving them the freedom to participate. Allen not only calls on institutions to reform the way they understand and promote citizenship but also asks citizens to adopt a new ethic of public discourse that values understanding rather than winning.