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Nota di contenuto

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""8. Finland: Polarized Pluralism in the Shadow of a Strong President""""
9. France: Delegation and Accountability in the Fifth Republic""; ""10. Germany: Multiple Veto Points, Informal Coordination, and Problems of Hidden Action""; ""11. Greece: a€?Rationalizinga€? Constitutional Powers in a Post-dictatorial Country""; ""12. Iceland: A Parliamentary Democracy with a Semi-presidential Constitution""; ""13. Ireland: a€?O What a Tangled Web. . .a€?a€?Delegation, Accountability, and Executive Power""; ""14. Italy: Delegation and Accountability in a Changing Parliamentary Democracy""
""15. Luxembourg: A Case of More a€?Directa€? Delegation and Accountability""""16. The Netherlands: Rules and Mores in Delegation and Accountability Relationships""; ""17. Norway: Virtual Parliamentarism""; ""18. Portugal: Changing Patterns of Delegation and Accountability under the Presidenta€?s Watchful Eyes""; ""19. Spain: Delegation and Accountability in a Newly Established Democracy"";
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Sommario/riassunto

This book argues that representative democracies can be understood as chains of delegation and accountability between citizens and politicians. Under parliamentary democracy, this chain of delegation is simple but also long and indirect. Principal-agent theory helps us to understand the perils of democratic delegation, which include the problems of adverse selection and moral hazard. Citizens in democratic states, therefore, need institutional mechanisms by which they can control theirrepresentatives. The most important such control mechanisms are on the one hand political parties and on the other external constraints such as courts, central banks, referendums, and supranational institutions such as those of the European Union. Traditionally, parliamentary democracies have relied heavily on political parties and presidential systems more on external constraints.