

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910971463103321
Autore	Grindle Merilee <1945->
Titolo	Audacious reforms : institutional invention and democracy in Latin America // Merilee S. Grindle
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Baltimore, : Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000
ISBN	0-8018-7788-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiv, 269 pages)
Disciplina	320.98
Soggetti	Local elections - Latin America Decentralization in government - Latin America Central-local government relations - Latin America Democracy - Latin America Political participation - Latin America
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [245]-262) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. Audacious reforms : democratizing Latin America -- 2. Explaining the unexpected -- 3. Institutional invention in Venezuela : legitimizing the system -- 4. New rules of the game : consequences of change in Venezuela -- 5. Political engineering in Bolivia : the law for popular participation -- 6. A new conundrum : national-local politics in Bolivia -- 7. Pacting institutional change in Argentina -- 8. Waiting for Godot? constitutional change in Argentine practice -- 9. Democratizing reforms : origins and consequences.
Sommario/riassunto	Audacious Reforms examines the creation of new political institutions in three Latin American countries: direct elections for governors and mayors in Venezuela, radical municipalization in Bolivia, and direct election of the mayor of Buenos Aires in Argentina. Diverging from the usual incremental processes of political change, these cases marked a significant departure from traditional centralized governments. Such "audacious reforms," explains Merilee S. Grindle, reinvent the ways in which public problems are manifested and resolved, the ways in which political actors calculate the costs and benefits of their activities, and the ways in which social groups relate to the political process. Grindle considers three central questions: Why would rational politicians

choose to give up power? What accounts for the selection of some institutions rather than others? And how does the introduction of new institutions alter the nature of political actions? The case studies of Venezuela, Bolivia, and Argentina demonstrate that institutional invention must be understood from theoretical perspectives that stretch beyond immediate concerns about electoral gains and political support building. Broader theoretical perspectives on the definition of nation and state, the nature of political contests, the legitimacy of political systems, and the role of elites all must be considered. While past conflicts are not erased by reforms, in the new order there is often greater potential for more responsible, accountable, and democratic government.
