

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910972740803321
Autore	Faulkner Robert K. <1934->
Titolo	The case for greatness : honorable ambition and its critics / / Robert Faulkner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven [Conn.], : Yale University Press, c2007
ISBN	9780300150278 030015027X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 online resource (xi, 264 p.))
Disciplina	179/.9
Soggetti	Ambition
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. 243-256) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Honorable statesmen and obscuring theories -- The gentleman-statesman : Aristotle's (complicated) great-souled man -- Imperial ambition in free politics : the problem of Thucydides' Alcibiades -- The soul of grand ambition : Alcibiades cross-examined by Socrates -- Imperial grandeur and imperial hollowness : Xenophon's Cyrus the Great -- Obscuring the truly great : Washington and modern theories of fame -- Honorable greatness denied (1) : the egalitarian web -- Honorable greatness denied (2) : the premises.
Sommario/riassunto	The Case for Greatness is a spirited look at political ambition, good and bad, with particular attention to honorable ambition. Robert Faulkner contends that too many modern accounts of leadership slight such things as determination to excel, good judgment, justice, and a sense of honor-the very qualities that distinguish the truly great. And here he offers an attempt to recover "a reasonable understanding of excellence," that which distinguishes a Franklin D. Roosevelt and a Lincoln from lesser leaders. Faulkner finds the most telling diagnoses in antiquity and examines closely Aristotle's great-souled man, two accounts of the spectacular and dubious Athenian politician Alcibiades, and the life of the imperial conqueror Cyrus the Great. There results a complex and compelling picture of greatness and its problems. Faulkner dissects military and imperial ambition, the art of leadership, and, in the later example of George Washington, ambition in the service of popular self-government. He also addresses modern indictments of

even the best forms of political greatness, whether in the critical thinking of Hobbes, the idealism of Kant, the relativism and brutalism of Nietzsche, or the egalitarianism of Rawls and Arendt. He shows how modern philosophy came to doubt and indeed disdain even the best forms of ambition. This book is a nuanced defense of admirable ambition and the honor-seeking life, as well as an irresistible invitation to apply these terms to our own times and leaders.
