

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996201989603316
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Titolo	Proverbs Are The Best Policy : Folk Wisdom And American Politics // Wolfgang Mieder
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Utah State University, University Libraries, 2005 Logan, Utah : , : Utah State University Press, , 2005 ©2005
ISBN	1-283-28342-5 9786613283429 0-87421-518-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (323 pages)
Disciplina	398.9/21/0973
Soggetti	Politicians - United States - Language Rhetoric - Political aspects - United States Proverbs - Political aspects - United States Proverbs, American Electronic books. United States Politics and government Quotations, maxims, etc United States Politics and government Miscellanea
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 297-309) and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	"Different strokes for different folks" : American proverbs as an international, national, and global phenomenon -- "Government of the people, by the people, for the people" : the making and meaning of an American proverb about democracy -- "God helps them who help themselves" : proverbial resolve in the letters of Abigail Adams -- "A house divided against itself cannot stand" : from biblical proverb to Abraham Lincoln and beyond -- "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" : Frederick Douglass's proverbial struggle for civil rights -- "It's not a president's business to catch flies" : proverbial rhetoric in presidential inaugural addresses -- "We are all in the same boat now" : proverbial discourse in the Churchill-Roosevelt correspondence -- "Good fences make good neighbors" : the

sociopolitical significance of an ambiguous proverb.

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Sommario/riassunto

Wolfgang Mieder, widely considered the world's greatest proverb scholar, here considers the role of proverbial speech on the American political stage from the Revolutionary War to the present. He begins his survey by discussing the origins and characteristics American proverbs and their spread across the globe hand in hand with America's international political role. He then looks at the history of the defining proverb of American democracy, "government of the people, by the people, for the people." Subsequent essays consider such matters as Abigail Adams's masterful use of politically ch-

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