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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Acknowledgments -- Contents -- List of abbreviations -- 1. Introduction -- 2. From theories of expansion to theories of retrenchment -- 3. A framework for government choice on retrenchment -- 4. Research strategy and research design -- 5. Retrenchments in Denmark and the Netherlands -- 6. Dutch Politics and welfare-state retrenchment. How party competition produced consensus -- 7. Danish politics and welfare-state retrenchment: The difficulties of a right-wing government and the possibilities of a left-wing government -- 8. The evidence on balance and some quibbles -- 9. Party politics matter - summary and implications -- Appendix -- Summary -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Christoffer Green-Pedersen's insightful examination of political party strategy in Europe reveals strong links between party consensus and

policy retrenchment, arguing that the former allows governments to frame retrenchment in a way that justifies it to the electorate. In the Netherlands, Green-Pedersen shows, such consensus emerged in the mid-1980s, allowing the government to implement a number of welfare retrenchments; in Denmark, consensus did not emerge until the Social Democratic Party re-entered government in 1993, leading to less welfare-state retrenchment than in the Netherlands.

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