

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910155552803321
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Titolo	Antonio Gramsci : towards an intellectual biography // by Alastair Davidson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston : , : Brill, , [2016]
ISBN	90-04-32630-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (337 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Historical materialism book series, , 1570-1522 ; ; v. 129
Disciplina	335.43092
Soggetti	Communists - Italy Communists Biography Electronic books. Italy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"New edition"--Preface.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front Matter / Alastair Davidson -- Introduction / Alastair Davidson -- A Country Boy / Alastair Davidson -- Making the Country Boy an Italian / Alastair Davidson -- A Philosophy of Praxis / Alastair Davidson -- '... an International Figure?' / Alastair Davidson -- A Revolutionary Theory / Alastair Davidson -- Bibliography / Alastair Davidson -- Index / Alastair Davidson.
Sommario/riassunto	Many large Italian cities have a main thoroughfare 'via Gramsci', showing that the Communist leader has become part of Italy's 'national patrimony', while internationally, the interest in Gramsci's writings is second to none. As a consequence of this fame, Gramsci's heritage is claimed by rival groups: on the one hand by those who hope to establish his writings as 'sacred texts' for their own policies and on the other by those who stress any differences with Lenin in order to prove Gramsci a 'rebel'. A great merit of this biography is that it lifts the study of Gramsci away from the sterile debate about whether he was or was not a Leninist; another achievement of the author has been to integrate the circumstances of Gramsci's life – the childhood in Sardinia, the politics of the left in the 1920s, the years of exile and prison – with his developing political and philosophical ideas.

