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Nota di contenuto	Part 1. Orthogenesis: a history -- Chapter 1. The sources. Formation of the concept of directed evolution in the 19th century -- Chapter 2. Evolutionary biology at the turn of the 20th century. New concepts of directed evolution in the 1900-1930s -- Chapter 3. Declarations in favour of orthogenesis in the 1900-1930s -- Chapter 4. Orthogenesis and the modern evolutionary synthesis -- Chapter 5. New concepts of directed evolution in the recent history of evolutionary biology -- Chapter 6. Statements in support of orthogenesis in the 1950s and later -- Part 2. Orthogenesis: Pro et Contra -- Chapter 7. "Laws" in biology. - Chapter 8. Species senescence -- Chapter 9. Adaptation or non-adaptation? -- Chapter 10. Anticipation, parallelisms and convergences -- Chapter 11. Constraints on variation -- Chapter 12. Direct impact of the environment on evolution and the inheritance of acquired characteristics -- Chapter 13. Mystics or unrealised synthesis? Chapter 14. Conclusion.
Sommario/riassunto	This book reviews the convoluted history of orthogenesis with an emphasis of non-English sources, untangles relationships between

various concepts of directed evolution and argues whether orthogenesis has something to offer modern biology. Darwinism claims that evolution occurs by selection from an extensive random variability. An alternative viewpoint—that the material for variability is limited and organisms are predisposed to vary in certain directions—is the essence of evolutionary concepts that can be grouped together under the name of orthogenesis. Dating back to Lamarck, orthogenesis has existed in many guises. Branded as mystical and discarded as unscientific, it keeps re-emerging in evolutionary discussions.
