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Titolo	Of Ants and Men : The Unexpected Side Effects of Complexity in Society // by David G. Green
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ISBN	3-642-55230-7
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Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (270 p.)
Collana	Green Energy and Technology
Disciplina	155.24 620 621
Soggetti	Computational complexity Statistical physics Dynamics Complexity Complex Systems Statistical Physics and Dynamical Systems
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	From Bad to Worse -- Of Ants and Men -- A Tangled Web -- The Eye of the Beholder -- The Animal Within -- More things in heaven and earth -- The Sting in the Tail -- Divide and Rule -- One thing leads to another -- The Snowball Effect -- A Deadly Cascade -- Collateral damage -- The Straw that Broke the Camel's Back -- The Herd Instinct -- The Subatomic Family -- The Global Village -- The Root of All Evil -- Fouling the Nest -- Shaping the Future.
Sommario/riassunto	Why do things go wrong? Why, despite all the planning and care in the world, do things go from bad to worse? This book argues that it is because we are like the ants. Just as ants create an anthill without being aware of it, unintended side effects of human activity create all manner of social trends and crises. The book traces the way these trends emerge and the role they play in some of the major issues of our time. One of the greatest challenges today is the complexity of our social and economic systems. Every action has side effects that people

often ignore or fail to see. The book examines the ways in which limitations in our thinking and behaviour lead to unintended side effects. It looks at the role played by complex networks of interactions. Finally, it looks at the way side effects of new technologies, especially computers and communication, have created an Information Revolution, the full repercussions of which are yet to be seen. In our race to create new technologies and sustain indefinite economic growth, we are at best dimly aware of the ways in which we are transforming society and threatening our environment.

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