

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910309740903321
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Titolo	Planning in Cold War Europe : Competition, Cooperation, Circulations (1950s-1970s) // Michel Christian, Sandrine Kott, Ondrej Matejka
Pubbl/distr/stampa	München, : De Gruyter, 2018 München ; ; Wien : , : De Gruyter Oldenbourg, , [2018] ©2018
ISBN	3-11-053240-9 3-11-053469-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (383 p.)
Collana	Rethinking the Cold War ; ; 2
Disciplina	330.94055
Soggetti	Cold War Internationale Organisation Kalter Krieg HISTORY / Social History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Acknowledgements -- Table of Contents -- Planning in Cold War Europe: Introduction / Michel, Christian / Kott, Sandrine / Matjka, Ondej -- Part 1: Planning a New World after the War -- Peace, Prosperity and Planning Postwar Trade, 1942-1948 / McKenzie, Francine -- A Bridge between East and West? Gunnar Myrdal and the UN Economic Commission for Europe, 1947-1957 / Stinsky, Daniel -- Part 2: High Modernism Planning -- Mandatory Planning versus Indicative Planning? The Eastern Itinerary of French Planners (1960s-1970s) / Gouarné, Isabelle -- International Research Planning across the Iron Curtain: East-Central European Social Scientists in the ISSC and Vienna Centre / Naumann, Katja -- The Social Engineering Project. Exportation of Capitalist Management Culture to Eastern Europe (1950-1980) / Kott, Sandrine -- Transferring Western Knowledge to a centrally planned Economy: Finland and the Scientific-Technical Cooperation with the Soviet Union / Autio-Sarasmo, Sari -- Social Engineering and Alienation between East and West: Czech Christian-Marxist Dialogue in the 1960s from the National Level to the Global Arena / Matjka,

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Sommario/riassunto

The idea of planning economy and engineering social life has often been linked with Communist regimes' will of control. However, the persuasion that social and economic processes could and should be regulated was by no means limited to them. Intense debates on these issues developed already during the First World War in Europe and became globalized during the World Economic crisis. During the Cold War, such discussions fuelled competition between two models of economic and social organisation but they also revealed the convergences and complementarities between them. This ambiguity, so often overlooked in histories of the Cold War, represents the central issue of the book organized around three axes. First, it highlights how know-how on planning circulated globally and were exchanged by looking at international platforms and organizations. The volume then closely examines specificities of planning ideas and projects in the Communist and Capitalist World. Finally, it explores East-West channels generated by exchanges around issues of planning which functioned irrespective of the Iron Curtain and were exported in developing countries. The volume thus contributes to two fields undergoing a process of profound reassessment: the history of modernisation and of the Cold War.
