

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910449785203321
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Titolo	Aspects of enlightenment : social theory and the ethics of truth // Thomas Osborne
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : UCL Press, , 1998
ISBN	1-135-35912-1 1-138-16588-3 0-203-98062-X 1-280-22666-8 9786610226665
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (200 p.)
Disciplina	300.1
Soggetti	Social sciences - Philosophy Enlightenment Philosophy, Modern Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliography: p. 195-209 and includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Book Cover; Half-Title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; Preface; Acknowledgements; Introduction Of enlightenmentality; 1 Reason, truth and criticism; 2 Aspects of scientific enlightenment; 3 Aspects of therapeutic enlightenment; 4 Aspects of aesthetic enlightenment; 5 Questioning enlightenment::; 6 Agents of enlightenment: in praise of intellectuals; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This is a timely, distinctive and sparkling introductory account of social theory and the central role of enlightenment within it. Osborne argues that social theory should be based on an idea of enlightenment rather than modernity.