

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450869003321
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Titolo	George Eliot and the politics of national inheritance [[electronic resource] /] / Bernard Semmel
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Oxford University Press, 1994
ISBN	0-19-535874-0 1-280-52718-8 1-4294-0584-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (177 p.)
Disciplina	823/.8
Soggetti	Politics and literature - Great Britain - History - 19th century Political fiction, English - History and criticism National characteristics, English, in literature 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	Includes bibliographical references (p. 145-161) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Prologue; 1. The Myth of the Disinherited One; 2. Free Will and the Politics of Inheritance; 3. The Positivist Novel; 4. Positivism and the Politics of Compromise in Middlemarch; 5. The Disinherited Races; Epilogue; Notes; Index; A; B; C; D; E; F; G; H; I; J; K; L; M; N; O; P; R; S; T; U; V; W; Y; Z
Sommario/riassunto	The study examines Eliot's use of the theme of inheritance as a metaphor for politics - linking generations in the kindred family and providing bonds of sympathy for the wider family of the nation. It describes the stress of Eliot's novels on the political traditions and culture of the nation.