

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457704603321
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Titolo	Rebuilding Germany : the creation of the social market economy, 1945-1957 // James C. Van Hook [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2004
ISBN	1-107-14925-8 1-280-47790-3 0-511-19532-X 0-511-19598-2 0-511-19392-0 0-511-31433-7 0-511-51193-0 0-511-19466-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiv, 312 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	330.943/0875
Soggetti	Free enterprise Germany (West) Economic policy Germany (West) Economic conditions Germany (West) Social policy United States Foreign relations Germany (West) Germany (West) Foreign relations United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 297-302) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Title; Copyright; Dedication; Contents; Preface; List of Abbreviations; Introduction; 1 Planning for Reconstruction; 2 The Future of the Ruhr; 3 High Hopes and Disappointment: The SPD and the Planning Regime, 1945-47; 4 Ludwig Erhard, the CDU, and the Free Market; 5 Free Markets, Investment, and the Ruhr; 6 The Social Market Economy and Competition; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	The social market economy has served as a fundamental pillar of post-war Germany. Today, it is associated with the European welfare state. Initially, it meant the opposite. Rebuilding Germany examines the 1948 West German economic reforms that dismantled the Nazi command

economy and ushered in the fabled 'European Miracle' of the 1950s. Van Hook evaluates the US role in German reconstruction, the problematic relationship of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and his economics minister, Ludwig Erhard, the West German 'economic miracle', and the extent to which the social market economy represented a departure from the German past. In a nuanced and fresh account, Van Hook evaluates the American role in West German recovery and the debates about economic policy within West Germany, to show that Germans themselves had surprising room to shape their economic and industrial system.

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