

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910458950103321
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Titolo	At the crossroads [[electronic resource]] : middle America and the battle to save the car industry // Abe Aamidor & Ted Evanoff
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Toronto, : ECW Press, c2010
ISBN	1-282-61463-0 9786612614637 1-55490-637-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (412 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	EvanoffTed
Disciplina	338.4/76292220973
Soggetti	Automobile industry and trade - Social aspects - United States Automobile industry and trade - Indiana - Kokomo Deindustrialization - Social aspects - United States Middle class - United States Automobile industry and trade - United States Electronic books. Kokomo (Ind.) Economic conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Perfect storm -- Dogs at the gate -- Their year of decision -- Government motors -- UAW -- Ciao! -- What's good for General Motors ... -- Reuther's ghost -- Saving our cities -- Electric shock -- What's good for Wall Street ... -- Into the brink.
Sommario/riassunto	Detailing what is at the center of the troubled American auto industry, this story is described by the people most affected by it as they confront 2009, which is bound to be their year of decision. It is not only Detroit's fate that hangs in the balance but also dozens of places such as Kokomo, Indiana-home to three generations of auto workers, many of whom are descended from the original pioneers in the state. The exploration focuses on Chrysler in particular and the citizens of Kokomo: union leaders, salaried plant managers, and elected local officials,