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	Sommario/riassunto	Each year, a course is offered, called Lectures for the 21st century. Perspectives on Society and Science. Each year, different themes are explored, and they are approached from different angles. In general, one finds here a good sample of what scientific research at the university is about. The texts in this book are the result of this year's series of lectures, covering a wide range of topics: from genetics to psychotherapy, from food in Africa to functional food, from human retroviruses to sports, from history to university education. For

students it will serve as a textbook; for all others it can be an introduction to different themes of contemporary science.