

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910552753603321
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Titolo	The Other Bolsheviks : Lenin and His Critics, 1904–1914 // Robert C. Williams
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Indiana University Press, 1986 Indiana University Press, , 1986 Bloomington
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (233 p.) : : ill. ;
Disciplina	947.08/3
Soggetti	Communism - Soviet Union - History Electronic books. Russia Politics and government 1904-1914
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliography: p. 222-228.
Sommario/riassunto	Focusing on the thought and activities of A. A. Vogdanov, A. V. Lunacharsky, Maxim Gorky, and V. D. Bonch-Bruevich, this political and intellectual history of Bolshevism before 1914 shows that Lenin by no means dominated or controlled his own fraction of the Russian Social Democratic Worker's Party, as his famous essay What Is to Be Done? (1902) implies. Rather, Lenin and his rival, Alexander Bogdanov, struggled to persuade divided and fissiparous revolutionary exiles to accept their respective ideals of rigid party authority and Marxist orthodoxy, on the one hand, or collectivist and syndicalist manipulation of the masses, on the other.