Record Nr. UNINA9910639882303321 Autore Dickens Peter Titolo Capital and the cosmos: war, society and the quest for profit // Peter Dickens Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham, Switzerland: ,: Springer International Publishing, , [2023] ©2023 **ISBN** 9783031185014 9783031185007 Edizione [1st ed. 2022.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (162 pages) Disciplina 338.0919 Space sciences - Social aspects Soggetti Outer space Exploration Economic aspects Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di contenuto 1. The Cosmos: Capitalism's Outside?- 2. Libertarianism, Fantasy and Cosmic Capitalism -- 3. Individualism, Narcissism and the Cosmos --4. Circuits of Capital, Circuits of Earth -- 5. Producing Spacecraft -- 6. The Body and the Cosmos -- 7. A Cosmic Risk Society?- 8. Satellites, War and Capital Accumulation -- 9. Cosmic Capitalism and Space Law -- 10. Future Work -- 11. Prefigurative Politics: Towards a Cosmic Socialism? Sommario/riassunto This book offers a new understanding of society's relations with the cosmos. Entrepreneurs such as Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk receive a great deal of publicity, but offer unlikely and implausible visions of space tourism for the general public. Meanwhile, asteroids are seen as 'rare materials' which will be extracted and used to produce untold riches for earthbound citizens. The reality is rather different. First, there is no evidence that owners of capital are attempting to extract 'rare' materials in the cosmos. The costs would be 'out of this world'. But capital, not governments, is determining how outer space should be used. Capital's investments in aerospace companies are actively determining forms of military interventions and the equipment used. And satellite television pumps out forms of culture aimed at a global

audience. But these are being ignored and subverted by, for example,

indigenous peoples. In short, this book sets out a new understanding of our relations with the cosmos. The forces of capital are certainly powerful but at the same time they are being challenged, subverted and even overturned. Peter Dickens teaches at the Departments of Sociology at Brighton, Cambridge and Lancaster Universities, UK. He is the co-author of Cosmic Society (2007) and co-editor of The Palgrave Handbook of Society, Culture and Outer Space (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016). His book Society and Nature: Changing Our Environment, Changing Ourselves (2006) was given an Outstanding Publication Award by the American Sociological Association.