1. Record Nr. UNINA9910720092703321 Autore Lucas Edward Titolo Early British Socialism and the 'Religion of the New Moral World' / / by **Edward Lucas** Pubbl/distr/stampa Cham:,: Springer Nature Switzerland:,: Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan, , 2023 **ISBN** 9783031239403 9783031239397 Edizione [1st ed. 2023.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (283 pages) Collana Palgrave Studies in Utopianism, , 2946-448X 941 Disciplina Soggetti Great Britain—History Religion—History Social history Intellectual life—History World politics History of Britain and Ireland History of Religion Social History History of Ideas Political History Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di contenuto 1. Introduction -- 2. The State of the Literature -- 3. Reconceiving Religion -- 4. Owenite Socialism in Religious Context -- 5. Owenite Religion as a Socialite Religion -- 6. Religion and the History of Socialism -- 7. Conclusion. Sommario/riassunto This book challenges existing accounts of the role of religion in earlynineteenth-century British socialism. Against scholarly interpretations which have identified Owenite socialists as anti-religious or as imitating Christianity, this book argues that Owenites offer a reconception of the nature of 'religion' as advanced through knowledge

of the natural and social world, as a prospective source of solidarity which could serve as the unifying bond for communities, and as

constituted by ethical conduct. It shows how this re-conception was formed through a sincere and considered reflection upon the problem of religious truth and was shaped by the particular religious context of early-nineteenth-century Britain. It then demonstrates the importance of this reimagination of religion to their understanding of socialism. Their religious interests were not an eccentric adornment to their socialism, an outdated residue yet to be shed and encumbering the development of a mature socialism, or merely instrumental to their temporal goals. Instead, Owenite ambitions of religious reform were grounded in the philosophical preoccupations which animated their socialism. Edward Lucas completed his DPhil at the University of Oxford, UK and now works for the UK government.