

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910765994103321
Titolo	Pathways to industrialization and regional development // edited by Michael Storper and Allen J. Scott
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Routledge, 1992
ISBN	1-134-88273-4 1-134-88274-2 1-280-22133-X 9786610221332 0-203-99554-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (387 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	StorperMichael ScottAllen John
Disciplina	338.9
Soggetti	Industrialization Regional planning Industrial policy
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	BOOK COVER; HALF-TITLE; TITLE; COPYRIGHT; CONTENTS; FIGURES; TABLES; CONTRIBUTORS; PREFACE; ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS; 1 INDUSTRIALIZATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; 2 FORDIST AND POST-FORDIST INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR AND MONETARY REGIMES; 3 FORDISM AND POST-FORDISM: A CRITICAL REFORMULATION; 4 FLEXIBLE SPECIALIZATION VERSUS POST-FORDISM: THEORY, EVIDENCE, AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS; 5 THE JAPANESE MODEL OF POST-FORDISM; 6 THE REVITALIZATION OF MASS PRODUCTION IN THE COMPUTER AGE; 7 TECHNOLOGICAL TRAJECTORIES AND THE CLASSICAL REVIVAL IN ECONOMICS 8 THE STRUCTURE OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN FIRMS AND MARKETS9 TRUST, COMMUNITY, AND COOPERATION: TOWARD A THEORY OF INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS; 10 A REEXAMINATION OF THE ITALIAN MODEL OF FLEXIBLE PRODUCTION FROM A COMPARATIVE POINT OF VIEW; 11 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS IN POSTWAR FRANCE; 12 LOCALIZED

INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS IN FRANCE: A PARTICULAR TYPE OF INDUSTRIAL SYSTEM; 13 ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO LABOR FLEXIBILITY; 14 LABOR CONVENTIONS, ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS, AND FLEXIBILITY; 15 LEVELS OF POLICY AND THE NATURE OF POST-FORDIST COMPETITION 16 DIVERGENT PATTERNS OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATION IN SILICON VALLEY17 CONCEPTUAL FALLACIES AND OPEN QUESTIONS ON POST-FORDISM; NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES; INDEX

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Sommario/riassunto

The paradigm of mass production has given way to radically new forms of organizing industrial production based primarily on the need to foster continuous redesign of products and processes in the face of intensified competition. This change, which is designed to engender continuous adaptive learning in production systems, requires considerable organizational flexibility. The mass production systems constructed in the early post-war period foundered in the face of new forms of competition which put a premium on learning and flexibility.

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