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Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; 1. THE IDEA OF PROGRESS; 1.1 Cultural evolution; The agricultural revolution; Early forms of writing; 1.2 Condorcet; 1.3 Godwin; 1.4 Adam Smith; Suggestions for Further Reading; 2. THE DISMAL SCIENCE; 2.1 Malthus; 2.2 Ricardo and the Iron Law of Wages; Suggestions for Further Reading; 3. DARK SATANIC MILLS; 3.1 Development of the steam engine; The discovery of atmospheric pressure; Steam engines using atmospheric pressure; 3.2 Working conditions; 3.3 The slow acceptance of birth control in England; Suggestions for further reading; 4. HOBSON'S THEORY; 4.1 The colonial era 4.2 Hobson's explanation4.3 The neocolonial era?; Suggestions for further reading; 5. MAINSTREAM INDUSTRIALISM; 5.1 Trade unions and minimum wage laws; Robert Owen and social reform; Rusting of the Iron Law; 5.2 Rising standards of living .; 5.3 Robber barons and philanthropists; "Hain't I got the power?"; Carnegie's philanthropies; 5.4 The conict between capitalism and communism; The Russian Revolution; The First Red Scare; McCarthyism; the Cold War; Capitalism triumphant; 5.5 Globalization; 5.6 Say's law; Suburbia; Keeping up appearances; Suggestions for further reading

6. VEBLEN, GANDHI AND THE GREENS
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 The postwar nuclear arms race

Sommario/riassunto

The world is rapidly approaching the end of the fossil fuel era. This timely book reviews the historical background for this crisis and provides a comprehensive discussion of its important aspects. It contrasts the Utopian writings of Condorcet, Godwin and Adam Smith, with the more pessimistic views of Malthus and Ricardo. It then discusses the characteristics of mainstream industrialism, as well as the ecological counterculture. The final chapters of the book study the present position regarding both non-renewable and renewable resources, and the problem of reducing the economic trauma that w
