

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910777919203321
Autore	Steinvorth Ulrich
Titolo	Rethinking the Western understanding of the self // Ulrich Steinvorth [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2009
ISBN	1-107-19388-5 1-139-17525-4 0-511-65106-6 0-511-59302-3 0-511-59209-4 0-511-59495-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 222 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Disciplina	126.09
Soggetti	Self (Philosophy) - Europe
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 01 Feb 2016).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The West and the self -- Basics of philosophical psychology. Heideggerian and Cartesian self -- Free will -- Cartesian, Lockean, and Kantian self -- Extraordinariness and the two stages of rationality -- The Cartesian self in history. The cause and content of modernity -- The second-stage rationality in history -- Economic rationality -- The Cartesian self in the twentieth century -- Value spheres. A diagnosis and therapy for modernity -- Value spheres defined and the state -- The serving spheres -- Technology -- Utilitarian or Cartesian approach -- The media and the professions -- Science -- Art and religion -- Sport -- Latin and absolute love -- A self-understanding not only for the West. Is the core idea of modernity realizable at all? -- Harnessing extraordinariness -- Cartesian modernity -- The undivided, universally developed individual -- The end of history?
Sommario/riassunto	Ulrich Steinvorth offers a fresh analysis and critique of rationality as a defining element in Western thinking. Steinvorth argues that Descartes' understanding of the self offers a more plausible and realistic alternative to the prevailing understanding of the self formed by the Lockean conception and utilitarianism. When freed from Cartesian

dualism, such a conceptualization enables us to distinguish between self and subject. Moreover, it enables us to understand why individualism - one of the hallmarks of modernity in the West - became a universal ideal to be granted to every member of society; how acceptance of this notion could peak in the seventeenth century; and why it is now in decline, though not irreversibly so. Most importantly, the Cartesian concept of the self presents a way of saving modernity from the dangers that it now encounters.
