

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778183703321
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Titolo	Foundations of Hegel's social theory [[electronic resource]] : actualizing freedom / / Frederick Neuhouser
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, MA, : Harvard University Press, 2000
ISBN	0-674-04145-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 337 p.)
Disciplina	301.01
Soggetti	Social sciences - Germany - Philosophy - History - 19th century Sociology - Germany - History - 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 283-332) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction 1. Hegel's Conception of Social Freedom: Preliminaries 2. Rousseau: Freedom, Dependence, and the General Will 3. The Subjective Component of Social Freedom 4. Objective Freedom, Part I: The Self-Determining Social Whole 5. Objective Freedom, Part II: Social Conditions of Individuals' Freedom 6. Hegel's Social Theory and Methodological Atomism 7. The Place of Moral Subjectivity in Ethical Life Notes Index
Sommario/riassunto	This study examines the philosophical foundations of Hegel's social theory by articulating the normative standards at work in his claim that the central social institutions of the modern era are rational or good.