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Sommario/riassunto	"In this book, G. Glen Wickens offers a new reading of a work which is often ignored by critics and students of Victorian literature, Thomas Hardy's The Dynasts. Wickens explores the monistic viewpoint of The

Dynasts through reference to nineteenth- and early twentieth-century philosophical writings which have never before been applied to Hardy's writing. Using insights derived from the critical theory of Mikhail Bakhtin - in particular his concept of carnival - Wickens also counters the usual view of *The Dynasts* as failed epic or tragedy, and instead situates the work as a novel within the serio-comical genres. In doing so, he brings out new, violent implications to Bakhtin's theory of laughter and carnival." "Thomas Hardy, Monism, and the Carnival Tradition is the first book-length study of Thomas Hardy's *The Dynasts* since 1977. It will be of interest to Hardy scholars, critics of Bakhtin, and readers interested in monist philosophy or nineteenth-century history."--Jacket.

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