

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783198303321
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Titolo	The Polish economic crisis : background, causes and aftermath // Batara Simatupang
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 1994
ISBN	1-134-88084-7 0-429-22916-X 0-203-16810-0 1-134-88085-5 1-280-02023-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 255 pages)
Disciplina	330.9438/05
Soggetti	Poland Economic conditions 1945- Poland Politics and government 1980-1989
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 (p. 237-252) and index.
Nota di contenuto	BOOK COVER; HALF-TITLE; TITLE; COPYRIGHT; CONTENTS; LIST OF FIGURE AND TABLES; FOREWORD; PREFACE; INTRODUCTION; 1 INVESTMENT; 2 EXTERNAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS; 3 INFLATION; 4 AGRICULTURE; 5 LABOUR SUPPLY; 6 LABOUR POLICY; 7 THE VIEWS OF POLISH ECONOMISTS; 8 LEGITIMACY; 9 THE AFTERMATH OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS; 10 CONCLUSION; NOTES; BIBLIOGRAPHY; NAME INDEX; SUBJECT INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	In order to understand the dramatic events of 1989 it is necessary to examine the circumstances leading up to them. The Polish Economic Crisis examines the primary factor. The author analyses how the severe recession of the late 1970's and early 1980's intensified the need for economic reform and resulted in the economic slump of the 1980's. Batara Simatupang concentrates on the effects of this period on the Polish people that proved to be a major pre-condition for the revolution of 1989 and influenced events in Eastern Europe as a whole.