

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784967703321
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Titolo	Mircea Eliade's vision for a new humanism // David Cave
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Oxford University Press, , 1993
ISBN	0-19-774010-3 1-280-52614-9 0-19-536073-7 1-4294-0744-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (229 pages)
Disciplina	291/.092
Soggetti	Human beings Humanism - History - 20th century Religion
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. 197-210) and index.
Nota di contenuto	CONTENTS; 1 Introduction; 2 The New Humanism as a Hermeneutics of a ""Participatory Morphology"" and as a Spiritual Vision; 3 The Nature of the Human Condition: Humans as Symbolic; 4 The Nature of the Human Condition: The Human as Mythic and as Homo Religiosus; 5 The Goals of the New Humanism; 6 The Challenges of the New Humanism; 7 Conclusion; BIBLIOGRAPHY; INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	This study argues that Mircea Eliade's idea of a ""new humanism"" for modern cultures was the motivating impulse behind much of his life's work on the history of religions.