

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787783803321
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Titolo	From deprived to revived : religious revivals as adaptive systems // Mikko Heimola
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boston : , : De Gruyter, , [2013] ©2013
ISBN	1-61451-377-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (212 p.)
Collana	Religion and reason ; ; Volume 53
Classificazione	BE 2200
Disciplina	306.6/69094897
Soggetti	Adaptability (Psychology) Religion and sociology Revivals - Finland - History - 19th century Social systems System theory
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Summary -- Preface -- Contents -- 1 Introduction -- 2 Cooperation As A Human Puzzle -- 3 Religion As A Solution To Social Dilemmas -- 4 Deprivation, Hazards, And Religious Revivals -- 5 Revivalism In Early Nineteenth Century Finland -- 6 From The Deprived To The Revived: A Self-Organizatory Process -- 7 Discussion And Conclusions -- 8 Sources -- 9 References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	It is a truism that religion has to do with social cohesion, but the precise nature of this link has eluded scholars and scientists. Drawing on new research in religiously motivated prosociality, evolution of cooperation, and system theory, this book describes how fluctuations in individuals' strategic environment give impetus to a self-organizatory process where ritual behavior works to alleviate uncertainties in social commitment. It also traces the dynamic roles played by emotions, social norms, and socioeconomic context. While exploring the social functions of ritual and revivalist behavior, the book seeks to avoid the fallacies that result from disregarding their explicit religious character. To illustrate these processes, a case study of Christian revivals in early 19th-century Finland is included. The thesis

of the book is relevant to theories of the evolution of religion and the role of religion in organizing human societies.

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