

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789946603321
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Titolo	The myth of continents [[electronic resource] ] : a critique of metageography // Martin W. Lewis, Karen E. Wigen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c1997
ISBN	1-280-08025-6 9786613520241 0-520-91859-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (361 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	WigenKaren <1958->
Disciplina	304.2
Soggetti	Geographical perception Geopolitics
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. 285-333) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- LIST OF MAPS -- PREFACE -- INTRODUCTION -- 1. The Architecture of Continents -- 2. The Spatial Constructs of Orient and Occident, East and West -- 3. The Cultural Constructs of Orient and Occident, East and West -- 4. Eurocentrism and Afrocentrism -- 5. Global Geography in the Historical Imagination -- 6. World Regions: An Alternative Scheme -- CONCLUSION: TOWARD A CRITICAL METAGEOGRAPHY -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	In this thoughtful and engaging critique, geographer Martin W. Lewis and historian Kären Wigen reexamine the basic geographical divisions we take for granted, and challenge the unconscious spatial frameworks that govern the way we perceive the world. Arguing that notions of East vs. West, First World vs. Third World, and even the sevenfold continental system are simplistic and misconceived, the authors trace the history of such misconceptions. Their up-to-the-minute study reflects both on the global scale and its relation to the specific continents of Europe, Asia, and Africa-actually part of one contiguous landmass.The Myth of Continents sheds new light on how our metageographical assumptions grew out of cultural concepts: how the first continental divisions developed from classical times; how the Urals became the division between the so-called continents of Europe and

Asia; how countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan recently shifted macroregions in the general consciousness. This extremely readable and thought-provoking analysis also explores the ways that new economic regions, the end of the cold war, and the proliferation of communication technologies change our understanding of the world. It stimulates thinking about the role of large-scale spatial constructs as driving forces behind particular worldviews and encourages everyone to take a more thoughtful, geographically informed approach to the task of describing and interpreting the human diversity of the planet.

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