

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790614603321
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Titolo	Does capitalism have a future? / / by Immanuel Wallerstein, Randall Collins, Michael Mann, Gorgi Derluguian and Craig Calhoun
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Oxford University Press, , [2013] ©2013
ISBN	0-19-933087-5 0-19-933085-9 0-19-933086-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (199 p.)
Classificazione	POL000000POL023000BUS069000
Altri autori (Persone)	CollinsRandall MannMichael DerluguianGorgi CalhounCraig
Disciplina	330.12/2
Soggetti	Capitalism Middle class Technological innovations - Forecasting
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.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: -- THE NEXT BIG TURN -- STRUCTURAL CRISIS, OR WHY CAPITALISTS MAY NO LONGER FIND CAPITALISM REWARDING -- TECHNOLOGICAL DISPLACEMENT OF MIDDLE-CLASS WORK AND THE LONG-TERM CRISIS OF CAPITALISM: NO MORE ESCAPES -- THE END MAY BE NIGH, BUT FOR WHOM? -- WHAT COMMUNISM WAS -- WHAT THREATENS CAPITALISM NOW? -- GETTING REAL.
Sommario/riassunto	"The Great Recession has prompted many reassessments of the finance-driven economic order that achieved world dominance in the era of globalization. Yet just about every observer has focused on only two issues: why things went wrong, and what we need to do in order to return the system to stability. Virtually no one has questioned whether the system as such can continue. In Does Capitalism Have a Future?, a quintet of globally eminent scholars - Immanuel Wallerstein, Randall

Collins, Michael Mann, Georgi Derluguian, and Craig Calhoun - survey the current global landscape and cut their way through to the most crucial issue of all: whether our capitalist system can survive in the medium run. Despite all its current gloom, conventional wisdom still assumes that capitalism cannot break down permanently because there is no alternative. The authors shatter this assumption, arguing that this generalization is not supported by theory, but is rather an outgrowth of the optimistic nineteenth-century claim that human history ascends through stages to an enlightened equilibrium of liberal capitalism. Yet as they point out, all major historical systems - from the Roman Empire to the Qing dynasty in China - have broken down in the end. In the modern epoch there have been several cataclysmic events - notably the French revolution, World War I, and the collapse of the Soviet bloc - that came to pass mainly because contemporary political elites had spectacularly failed to calculate the consequences of the processes they presumed to govern. At present, none of our governing elites and very few intellectuals can fathom an ending to our current reigning system. How possible is a systemic collapse in the medium-run of coming decades is the central question of this debate. While the contributors arrive at different conclusions, they are in constant dialogue with one another and therefore able to construct a relatively seamless--if open-ended--whole. Written by five of world's most eminent scholars of global historical trends, this ambitious book asks the biggest of questions: are we on the cusp of a radical world historical shift or not?"

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