

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791057003321
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Titolo	Dependence in man : a psychoanalytic study / / Henri Parens and Leon J. Saul
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Place of publication not identified] : , : Routledge, , 2020
ISBN	0-429-91261-7 0-429-89838-X 0-367-32308-7 0-429-47361-3 1-78241-286-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (273 p.)
Disciplina	150.19/52
Soggetti	Dependency (Psychology)
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	COVER; Dedication Page; Table of Contents; Acknowledgements; Foreword; Introduction; Part I: A Study of Freud's Writings; 1: A Study of Freud's Writings on Dependence in Man; Dependence and the Genetic Point of View; Dependence in Relation to Helplessness and Anxiety; Relation of Childhood Dependence to Psychic Structure Formation; Dependence and the Two Currents of the Libido; Part II: Theoretical Considerations; 2: On the Genesis of Psychologic Dependence; Introduction; Psychoanalytic Observations and Formulations; Notes from Animal Observations; Comments; Summary; 3: Inner Sustainment IntroductionMetapsychological Notes; Summary; 4: Two Co-ordinates of Dependence; Introduction; Dependence on the Object-""On Whom""; Dependence for the Gratification of Needs-""For What""; Dependence on Substitutes for the Object; Summary; 5: An Epigenesis of Psychologic Dependence; Birth to Four Months; Three to Six Months; Six to Ten Months; Ten to Fifteen Months; 14 to 36 Months; Three to Six Years; Latency; Adolescence; Early Adulthood; Middle Adulthood; Late Adulthood; Conclusion; Part III: Clinical Considerations; 6: Some Clinical Aspects of Dependence Dependence and Character DisordersReactive Dependence; Reactions to

**Sommario/riassunto**

This book provides an outline of the phenomenon of dependence as a reality in psychological functioning. It presents clinical examples to show how defense mechanisms are mobilized in response to what the individual conceives of as a threat to his autonomy and separateness.