

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910794752203321
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Titolo	Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus : migration, democratisation and inequality in the post-Soviet era // by Sophie Hohmann, Claire Mouradian, and Silvia Serrano ; edited by Julien Thorez
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : I.B. Tauris, , 2014
ISBN	0-7556-1935-8 0-85772-537-8
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (416 pages) : illustrations, maps
Disciplina	338.958
Soggetti	Economic development - Asia, Central Economic development - Caucasus Post-communism - Economic aspects Regional studies Asia, Central Economic conditions 1991- Asia, Central Social conditions Caucasus Economic conditions 21st century Caucasus Social conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- The Post-Soviet Caucasus and Central Asia: Another South?10 -- Part 1 Post-Soviet Region or Post-Colonial Countries?19 -- The Origins of a Colonial Vision of Southern Russia from the Tsars to the Soviets: Selected Imperial Practices in the Caucasus 20 -- 'Trust in Cadres' and the Party-Based Control in Central Asia During the Brezhnev Era 41 -- Nations and Postcolonialism in Central Asia: Twenty Years Later 64 -- Functional Clusters and Diverging Paths in Post-Soviet South: The Georgian Case 77 -- Part 2 Development, Inequalities and Poverty 93 -- Systemic change in two Central Asian rentier states: Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan 94 -- Human Capital and Inequality in Tajikistan: Intercommunication and Interdependence 114 -- Measures of Poverty in the Caucasus and Central Asia: International Approaches and Specificities of Southern Countries of the Former Soviet Union 137 -- Part 3 The Growth of Labour Migrations. Toward a New North-South

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Sommario/riassunto

"After the final collapse of the Soviet Union, the so-called 'last empire', in 1991, the countries of Central Asia - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan - and of the Caucasus - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia - became independent nations. These countries, previously production centres under the socialist planning system of the Soviet Union, have made enormous economic adjustments in order to develop - or attempt to develop - along capitalist lines. As this study will show, however, inequality in Central Asia and the Caucasus is widening, as the Soviet systems of healthcare and state provisions disappear. Rejecting the Cold War-era East/West paradigm often used to analyse the development of these nations, this study analyses development along the North-South lines which characterise the migration patterns and poverty levels of much of the rest of the developed world. This opens up new avenues of research, and helps us understand why it is, for instance, that this region is better characterised as a 'new South' - as skilled workers flood out of the territories and into Russia and Western Europe. Development in Central Asia and the Caucasus draws together detailed analyses of the development of migration economics as the region's oil wealth further enhances its strategic and economic importance to Russia, the US, the Middle East and to the EU."--Bloomsbury Publishing.

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