Record Nr.	UNINA9910808586803321
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Titolo	Accidental occidental : economics and culture of transition in Mitteleuropa, the Baltic and the Balkan area / / Lajos Bokros
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Budapest, Hungary ; ; New York, : Central European University Press, c2013
ISBN	1-283-97013-9 615-5225-36-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 192 pages) : illustrations
Disciplina	330.947
Soggetti	Post-communism - Europe, Eastern
	Europe, Eastern Economic policy 1989-
	Europe, Eastern Economic conditions 1989-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter Table of Contents Foreword Introduction 1. Communism as an Economic and Societal System in the Twentieth Century 2. Transition to Market and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe 3. Transition for the Twenty-First Century References Index
Sommario/riassunto	Besides providing a historical record of the long road from the economic agenda of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution to the present transition from communism, this book can be considered a staunch defense of market capitalism and liberal democracy. Any celebration of the current transition in Eastern Europe necessarily affirms the superiority of a market system over a non-market one and of a democratic system over a non-democratic one. The author does not deny the failures, shortcomings or imperfections of market economy and democracy. Nor does he take the survival of market capitalism and liberal democracy for granted. On the contrary, by highlighting the valiant and painful process of transition and attempting to understand its economics and culture, he seeks to contribute to the theoretical (academic) and practical (political) defense of Western civilization.

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