

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910814573103321
Autore	Reill Peter Hanns
Titolo	Vitalizing nature in the Enlightenment // Peter Hanns Reill
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2005
ISBN	9786612357497 0-520-93100-9 1-282-35749-2 1-59875-547-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (402 p.)
Classificazione	TB 2360
Disciplina	509/.4/09033
Soggetti	Vitalism Science - History - 18th century
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Prologue: The Humboldt Brothers Confront Nature's Sublimity -- 1. Storming "the Temple of Error": Buffon, the Histoire naturelle, and the Midcentury Origins of Enlightenment Vitalism -- 2. Learning to "Read the Book of Nature": Vitalizing Chemistry in the Late Enlightenment -- 3. "Within the Circle of Organized Life" -- 4. The Metamorphoses of Change -- 5. From Enlightenment Vitalism to Romantic Naturphilosophie -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	This far-reaching study redraws the intellectual map of the Enlightenment and boldly reassesses the legacy of that highly influential period for us today. Peter Hanns Reill argues that in the middle of the eighteenth century, a major shift occurred in the way Enlightenment thinkers conceived of nature that caused many of them to reject the prevailing doctrine of mechanism and turn to a vitalistic model to account for phenomena in natural history, the life sciences, and chemistry. As he traces the ramifications of this new way of thinking through time and across disciplines, Reill provocatively complicates our understanding of the way key Enlightenment thinkers viewed nature. His sophisticated analysis ultimately questions postmodern narratives that have assumed a monolithic Enlightenment-

characterized by the dominance of instrumental reason-that has led to many of the disasters of modern life.
