

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817110803321
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Titolo	Twilight of the elites : prosperity, the periphery, and the future of France // Christophe Guilluy ; translated from the French by Malcolm DeBevoise with a new preface
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven ; ; London : , : Yale University Press, , [2019] ©2019
ISBN	0-300-24082-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (184 pages)
Disciplina	305.50944
Soggetti	Social classes - France - History - 21st century Social stratification - France - History - 21st century Working class - France - History - 21st century History France Social conditions 1995- France
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages 151-167) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. The New Citadels -- 2. An Americanized Society -- 3. The Management of Public Opinion -- 4. The Defection of the Working Class -- Conclusion -- Appendix: An Index of Socioeconomic Fragility -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	A passionate account of how the gulf between France's metropolitan elites and its working classes are tearing the country apart Christophe Guilluy, a French geographer, makes the case that France has become an "American society"-one that is both increasingly multicultural and increasingly unequal. The divide between the global economy's winners and losers in today's France has replaced the old left-right split, leaving many on "the periphery." As Guilluy shows, there is no unified French economy, and those cut off from the country's new economic citadels suffer disproportionately on both economic and social fronts. In Guilluy's analysis, the lip service paid to the idea of an "open society" has emerged in France as a smoke screen meant to hide the emergence of a closed society, walled off for the benefit of the upper classes. The

ruling classes in France are reaching a dangerous stage, he argues; without the stability of a growing economy, the hope for those excluded from growth is extinguished, undermining the legitimacy of a multicultural nation.
