

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817259003321
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Titolo	Conscience : a biography // Martin van Crevelde
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : Reaktion Books, , 2015
ISBN	1-78023-461-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (287 p.)
Disciplina	170
Soggetti	Conscience
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; Conscience: A Biography; Imprint Page; Contents; Introduction; I. At the Beginning; Early Stirrings; From Homer to Aristotle; Enter the Stoics; II. The Christian Centuries; From Paul to Augustine; Conscience in the Age of Faith; Luther and After; III. From Machiavelli to Nietzsche; The Great Divide; The Death of God; Storming the Heavens; IV. Life Without God; From Liberation to Dressage; Alternatives to Conscience: Japan; Alternatives to Conscience: China; V. Conscience in the Third Reich; Those Who Commanded; Those Who Killed; Those Who Resisted; VI. Idols Old and New Learning to Say NoConscience and Health; Conscience and the Environment; VII. The Man-machine; From Atomism to Behaviourism; The Rise of the Robots; The Electrical-chemical Machine; Conclusion: At Journey's End; References; Acknowledgements; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Many consider conscience to be one of the most important-if not the fundamental-quality that makes us human, distinguishing us from animals, on one hand, and machines on the other. But what is conscience, exactly? Is it a product of our biological roots, as Darwin thought, or is it a purely social invention? If the latter, how did it come into the world?In this biography of that most elusive human element, Martin van Crevelde explores conscience throughout history, ranging across numerous subjects, from human rights to health to the environment. Along the way he considers the evolution of consc