1. Record Nr. UNINA9910820176403321 Autore Hart David Bentley Titolo Atheist delusions: the Christian revolution and its fashionable enemies // David Bentley Hart New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2009 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-282-35266-0 9786612352669 0-300-15564-6 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (272 p.) Disciplina 909/.09821 Church history - Primitive and early church, ca. 30-600 Soggetti Civilization, Western Christianity - Influence Atheism Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. 243-249) and index. Introduction -- Faith, reason, and freedom: a view from the present --Nota di contenuto The gospel of unbelief -- The age of freedom -- The mythology of the secular age: modernity's rewriting of the Christian past -- Faith and reason -- The night of reason -- The destruction of the past -- The death and rebirth of science -- Intolerance and persecution --Intolerance and war -- An age of darkness -- Revolution : the Christian invention of the human -- The great rebellion -- A glorious sadness --A liberating message -- The face of the faceless -- The death and birth of worlds -- Divine humanity -- Reaction and retreat: modernity and the eclipse of the human -- Secularism and its victims -- Sorcerers and saints. Sommario/riassunto In this provocative book one of the most brilliant scholars of religion today dismantles distorted religious "histories" offered up by Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins, and other contemporary critics of religion and advocates of atheism. David Bentley Hart provides a bold correction of the New Atheists's misrepresentations of the Christian past, countering their polemics with a brilliant account of

Christianity and its message of human charity as the most revolutionary

movement in all of Western history. Hart outlines how Christianity transformed the ancient world in ways we may have forgotten: bringing liberation from fatalism, conferring great dignity on human beings, subverting the cruelest aspects of pagan society, and elevating charity above all virtues. He then argues that what we term the "Age of Reason" was in fact the beginning of the eclipse of reason's authority as a cultural value. Hart closes the book in the present, delineating the ominous consequences of the decline of Christendom in a culture that is built upon its moral and spiritual values.