

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820825603321
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Titolo	Adam Smith, radical and egalitarian [[electronic resource]] : an interpretation for the twenty-first century // Iain McLean
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Edinburgh, : Edinburgh University Press, 2006
ISBN	0-7486-7211-7 1-280-53844-9 9786610538447 0-7486-2705-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (193 p.)
Disciplina	330.153092
Soggetti	Economics - Philosophy Enlightenment - Scotland
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 (p. [158]-165) and index.
Nota di contenuto	COVER; Contents; Foreword by Rt Hon. Gordon Brown; A Note on Citations; Preface: A Scotsman Looks at the World; 1 The Life of an Absent-minded Professor; 2 A Weak State and a Weak Church; 3 A Non-religious Grounding of Morals: Smith and the Scottish Enlightenment; 4 Merriment and Diversion: Smith on Public Finance and Public Choice; 5 The Invisible Hand and the Helping Hand; 6 The French and American Smiths; 7 Adam Smith Today; Appendix; Notes on Further Reading; References; Index;
Sommario/riassunto	Aims to show that Adam Smith (1723-90), the author of "The Wealth of Nations", was not the promoter of ruthless laissez-faire capitalism that is frequently depicted. Smith's "right-wing" reputation was sealed after his death when it was not safe to claim that an author may have influenced the French revolutionaries.