

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910825811803321
Autore	Fish Kenneth
Titolo	Living factories [[electronic resource] ] : biotechnology and the unique nature of capitalism // Kenneth Fish
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Montreal, : McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013
ISBN	0-7735-8801-9 1-283-92022-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (233 p.)
Classificazione	WF 9710
Disciplina	338.476606
Soggetti	Biotechnology industries Genetic engineering - Economic aspects Capitalism - Social aspects Environmental sociology
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""; ""Copyright""; ""Contents""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""Introduction - Of Spider-Goats and Mechanical Monsters""; ""1 - Marx and the Unique Nature of Industrial Capitalism""; ""2 - Conceptualizing Living Factories""; ""3 - Harnessing Life Itself as a Productive Force""; ""4 - Breaking the Machine Metaphor: The Difference that Life Makes""; ""5 - The Conscious Organ of the Living Factory""; ""6 - The Meaning of Marx's Organic Metaphors""; ""7 - Living Factories and the Materiality of Capitalism""; ""Conclusion - Towards a Bright Green Marxism?""; ""Notes""; ""References""; ""Index""
Sommario/riassunto	"Techniques of genetic engineering are changing the role of living things in the production process. From rabbits that produce human pharmaceuticals in their milk to plants that produce plastics and other building materials in their leaves, life itself is increasingly harnessed as a force of industry - a living factory. What do these cutting edge developments in biotechnology tell us about our relation to nature? Going beyond the usual focus on the ethics and risks surrounding genetically modified organisms, Kenneth Fish takes the emergence of living factories as an opportunity to revisit fundamental questions concerning the relation between human beings, technology, and the

natural world. He examines the coincidence of the living factory metaphor in contemporary accounts of biotechnology and in the work of Karl Marx, who described the machine as "a mechanical monster whose body fills whole factories, and whose demonic powers ... burst forth in the fast and feverish whirl of its countless working organs." Weaving together accounts of biotechnology in the molecular- and cyber-sciences, corporate literature, and environmental sociology, *Living Factories* casts our contemporary relation to nature in a new light. Fish shows that living factories reveal the unique role of capitalism in infusing the forces of nature with conscious purpose subordinated to processes of commodification and accumulation, and that they give a new meaning, and urgency, to the liberation of the forces of production from the fetters of capital."--Publisher's website.

---