

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910829056203321
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Titolo	At the dawn of modernity : biology, culture, and material life in Europe after the year 1000 // David Levine
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2001
ISBN	1-282-75878-0 9786612758782 0-520-92367-7 1-59734-475-3
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 431 pages)
Disciplina	940.1
Soggetti	Civilization, Medieval Social history - Medieval, 500-1500 Human body - Social aspects - History Europe Church history 600-1500
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Considering the Subject -- 1. Lineages of Early Modernization -- 2. Shards of Modernity -- 3. Living in the Material World -- 4. Reproducing Feudalism -- 5. Negative Feedbacks -- 6. Recombinant Mutations -- After-words -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Looking at a neglected period in the social history of modernization, David Levine investigates the centuries that followed the year 1000, when a new kind of society emerged in Europe. New commercial routines, new forms of agriculture, new methods of information technology, and increased population densities all played a role in the prolonged transition away from antiquity and toward modernity. At the Dawn of Modernity highlights both "top-down" and "bottom-up" changes that characterized the social experience of early modernization. In the former category are the Gregorian Reformation, the imposition of feudalism, and the development of centralizing state formations. Of equal importance to Levine's portrait of the emerging social order are the bottom-up demographic relations that structured everyday life, because the making of the modern world, in his view,

also began in the decisions made by countless men and women regarding their families and circumstances. Levine ends his story with the cataclysm unleashed by the Black Death in 1348, which brought three centuries of growth to a grim end.
