

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910954714503321
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Titolo	Circuitous journeys : modern spiritual autobiography / / David J. Leigh
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, : Fordham University Press, 2000
ISBN	978058541680X 9786612698576 9780823246724 0823246728 9781282698574 1282698575 9780823237456 0823237451 9780823219957 082321995X 9780585416809 058541680X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (276 p.)
Collana	Studies in religion and literature, , 1096-6692 ; ; no. 2
Disciplina	291.4/092/2 B
Soggetti	Autobiography - Religious aspects Spiritual biography - History and criticism
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 -- Acknowledgments -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. Thomas Merton's The Seven Storey Mountain -- 2. Dorothy Day's The Long Loneliness -- 3. The Psychology of Conversion in G. K. Chesterton and C. S. Lewis -- 4. The Dual Plot of Gandhi's An Autobiography -- 5. Malcolm X and the Black Muslim Search for the Ultimate -- 6. Black Elk Speaks: A Century Later -- 7. The Remaking of an American Jew: Paul Cowan's An Orphan in History -- 8. I, Rigoberta Menchu: The Plotting of Liberation -- 9. Dan Wakefield's Returning -- 10. Retraveling the Century: Nelson Mandela's Long Walk to Freedom -- Conclusion -- Index

Circuitous Journeys: Modern Spiritual Autobiography provides a close reading and analysis of ten major life stories by twentieth-century leaders and thinkers from a variety of religious and cultural traditions: Mohandas Gandhi, Black Elk, Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day, C. S. Lewis, Malcolm X, Paul Cowan, Rigoberta Menchu, Dan Wakefield, and Nelson Mandela. The book uses approaches from literary criticism, developmental psychology (influenced by Erik Erikson, James Fowler, and Carol Gilligan), and spirituality (influenced by John S. Donne, Emile Griffin, Walter Conn, and Bernard Lonergan). Each text is read in the light of the autobiographical tradition begun by St. Augustine's Confessions, but with a focus on distinctively modern and post-modern transformations of the self-writing genre. The twentieth-century context of religious alienation, social autonomy, identity crises and politics, and the search for social justice is examined in each text.
