

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996248294603316
Autore	Medina Eden <1976->
Titolo	Cybernetic revolutionaries : technology and politics in Allende's Chile / / Eden Medina
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : MIT Press, ©2011
ISBN	0-262-52596-8 0-262-29829-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource
Disciplina	303.48/33098309047
Soggetti	Government business enterprises - Computer networks - Chile Government ownership - Chile Cybernetics - Political aspects - Chile Chile Politics and government 1970-1973 Case studies Chile Economic conditions 1970-1973 Case studies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Technological and political visions -- Cybernetics and socialism -- cybernetics in the battle for production -- Designing a network -- Constructing the liberty machine -- The October strike -- Cybersyn goes public -- Conclusion : technology, politics, history.
Sommario/riassunto	A historical study of Chile's twin experiments with cybernetics and socialism, and what they tell us about the relationship of technology and politics. In <i>Cybernetic Revolutionaries</i> , Eden Medina tells the history of two intersecting utopian visions, one political and one technological. The first was Chile's experiment with peaceful socialist change under Salvador Allende; the second was the simultaneous attempt to build a computer system that would manage Chile's economy. Neither vision was fully realized--Allende's government ended with a violent military coup; the system, known as Project Cybersyn, was never completely implemented--but they hold lessons for today about the relationship between technology and politics. Drawing on extensive archival material and interviews, Medina examines the cybernetic system envisioned by the Chilean government--which was to feature holistic system design, decentralized management, human-computer interaction, a national

telex network, near real-time control of the growing industrial sector, and modeling the behavior of dynamic systems. She also describes, and documents with photographs, the network's Star Trek-like operations room, which featured swivel chairs with armrest control panels, a wall of screens displaying data, and flashing red lights to indicate economic emergencies. Studying project Cybersyn today helps us understand not only the technological ambitions of a government in the midst of political change but also the limitations of the Chilean revolution. This history further shows how human attempts to combine the political and the technological with the goal of creating a more just society can open new technological, intellectual, and political possibilities. Technologies, Medina writes, are historical texts; when we read them we are reading history.
