

1. Record Nr.	UNINA990005580650403321
Autore	Hartmann, Ludwig Moritz
Titolo	2.: Römer und Longobarden bis zur Teilung Italiens, Die Loslösung Italiens vom Oriente / Ludo Moritz Hartmann
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hildesheim : Georg Olms, 1969
Descrizione fisica	IX, 667 p. in + sequenze ; 22 cm
Disciplina	945.01
Locazione	FLFBC
Collocazione	945.01 HAR 1 (2)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Tedesco
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463247503321
Titolo	Asian medicine and globalization [[electronic resource] /] / edited by Joseph S. Alter
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2005
ISBN	0-8122-0525-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (196 p.)
Collana	Encounters with Asia
Altri autori (Persone)	AlterJoseph S
Disciplina	306.4/61/095
Soggetti	Traditional medicine - Asia Medicine, Ayurvedic - Asia Electronic books. Asia Social life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [151]-176) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Chapter 1. Introduction: The Politics of Culture and Medicine -- Chapter 2. yurvedic Acupuncture-

Transnational Nationalism: Ambivalence About the Origin and Authenticity of Medical Knowledge / Alter, Joseph S. -- Chapter 3. Deviant Airs in "Traditional" Chinese Medicine / Lo, Vivienne / Schroer, Sylvia -- Chapter 4. Reinventing Traditional Medicine: Method, Institutional Change, and the Manufacture of Drugs and Medication in Late Colonial India / Habib, S. Irfan / Raina, Dhruv -- Chapter 5. Health and Medicine in British India and Dutch Indies: A Comparative Study / Kumar, Deepak -- Chapter 6. Nationalism, Transnationalism, and the Politics of "Traditional" Indian Medicine for HIV/ AIDS / Hollen, Cecilia Van -- Chapter 7. Mapping Science and Nation in China / Chen, Nancy N. -- Chapter 8. Sanskrit Gynecologies in Postmodernity: The Commoditization of Indian Medicine in Alternative Medical and New Age Discourses on Women's Health / Selby, Martha Ann -- Chapter 9. China Reconstructs: Cosmetic Surgery and Nationalism in the Reform Era / Brownell, Susan -- Notes -- References -- CONTRIBUTORS -- Index -- Acknowledgments

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### Sommario/riassunto

Medical systems function in specific cultural contexts. It is common to speak of the medicine of China, Japan, India, and other nation-states. Yet almost all formalized medical systems claim universal applicability and, thus, are ready to cross the cultural boundaries that contain them. There is a critical tension, in theory and practice, in the ways regional medical systems are conceptualized as "nationalistic" or inherently transnational. This volume is concerned with questions and problems created by the friction between nationalism and transnationalism at a time when globalization has greatly complicated the notion of cultural, political, and economic boundedness. Offering a range of perspectives, the contributors address questions such as: How do states concern themselves with the modernization of "traditional" medicine? How does the global hegemony of science enable the nationalist articulation of alternative medicine? How do global discourses of science and "new age" spirituality facilitate the transnationalization of "Asian" medicine? As more and more Asian medical practices cross boundaries into Western culture through the popularity of yoga and herbalism, and as Western medicine finds its way east, these systems of meaning become inextricably interrelated. These essays consider the larger implications of transmissions between cultures.

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