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Reacting to new demands on the state; Conclusion; 3. Enhancing infrastructural power: shequ organization; The organization of urban neighbourhoods; Tasks; Financial resources; Salaries; Associations; Homeowners' committees: semi-autonomous bodies challenging formal structures; Conclusion; 4. Legitimizing narratives; The telos of a harmonious shequ; Turning subjects into citizens; Delineating autonomy: the moral state; Self-administration; Conclusion; 5. Shequ governance; Electoral processes in the shequ
A reservoir of 'volunteers': local party organizations
Informal participation; Case studies; Conclusion; 6. New schemes of social security: urban neighbourhood communities as institutions of output legitimacy; Shequ: new social welfare providers; The unemployed and their perspectives; The politics of urban income support; Income support funding; The Residents' Committee: social security agency; Conclusion; 7. Attitudes; Participation; Attitude towards elections; Preference towards certain types of election; Attitudes towards Residents' Committees; Attitudes towards homeowners' committees
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Sommario/riassunto

This book aims to make sense of the recent reform of neighbourhood institutions in urban China. It builds on the observation that the late 1990s saw a comeback of the state in urban China after the increased economization of life in the 1980s had initially forced it to withdraw. Based on several months of fieldwork in locations ranging from poor and dilapidated neighbourhoods in Shenyang City to middle class gated communities in Shenzhen, the authors analyze recent attempts by the central government to enhance stability in China's increasingly volatile cities. In particular, t
