

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910169176203321
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Titolo	China : promise or threat? : a comparison of cultures // by Horst J. Hell
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden; ; Boston : , : Brill, , 2017 ©2017
ISBN	9789004330603 9004330607 9789004298200 9004298207
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (174 pages) : digital file(s)
Collana	Studies in critical social sciences ; ; volume 96
Disciplina	306.0951
Soggetti	China Social conditions China Cultural policy History China Social life and customs China Religion China Foreign relations
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Foreword: a fascination with China / by David Fasenfest -- Preface -- Introduction: the goal of this book -- Familism : a threat to the environment -- Exchanges of threats : the opium wars -- China and the US : a balance of power? -- Religions: core components of cultures -- Religious vitality in contemporary China -- Max Weber's view of religion in China -- Daoism : China's native religion -- Oracle-bones : the mandate of heaven -- Confucius : recapture the lost splendor -- The West : individualism at its limits -- China : the kinship society -- China : a threatening promise to the West.
Sommario/riassunto	In China: Promise or Threat? Helle compares the cultures of China and the West through both private and public spheres. For China, the private sphere of family life is well developed while behaviour in public relating to matters of government and the law is less reliable. In contrast, the West operates in reverse. The book's twelve chapters investigate the causes and effects of threats to the environment,

military confrontations, religious differences, fundamentals of cultural history, and the countries' orientations for finding solutions to societal problems, all informed by the Confucian impulse to recapture the lost splendour of a past versus faith in progress toward a blessed future. The West has promoted individualism while China is locked in its kinship society.

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