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and Sino-British Relations -- Part Four: Transcending Borders -- 12. Expanding Possibilities: Revisiting the Min-Yue Junk-trade Enterprise on the China Coast and in the Nanyang during the Eighteenth to the Mid-nineteenth Centuries -- 13. The Case of Chen Yilao: Maritime Trade and Overseas Chinese in Qing Policies, 1717-54 -- 14. "Are These Persons British or Chinese Subjects?": Legal Principles and Ambiguities Regarding the Status of the Straits Chinese as Revealed in the Lee Shun Fah Affair in Amoy, 1847.

Sommario/riassunto

Using the concept of boundaries, physical and cultural, to understand the development of China's maritime southeast in late Imperial times, these linked essays by a senior scholar challenge the usual readings of Chinese history from the centre. The book begins with the boundaries between "us" and "them", Chinese and other, during this period, including the rise of state systems. It looks at the challenges to such demarcations posed by movements of people, goods and ideas across maritime East Asia and the broader Asian Seas, and builds a fresh understanding of China's boundaries.

Of interest to students of migration, of Chinese history, and of relations between China and its region, Ng's analysis provides crucial background to understanding China within Asia's maritime world. The result is a novel way of approaching Chinese history, argued from a fresh perspective on China's relations with neighbouring territories, and of the nature of tradition and its persistence in a changing world.
