

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910310645603321
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Titolo	Governing China's Multiethnic Frontiers / edited by Morris Rossabi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	University of Washington Press, 2004 Seattle : , : University of Washington Press, , 2004 ©2004
ISBN	9780295804057 029580405X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (305 p.)
Collana	Studies on Ethnic Groups in China
Altri autori (Persone)	RossabiMorris
Disciplina	323.151
Soggetti	Minorities - Government policy - China Electronic books. China Ethnic relations Political aspects Congresses
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Papers presented at conference "China's Management of Its National Minorities," held in Washington, D.C., Feb. 2001.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 270-284) and index.
Nota di contenuto	""Contents""; ""Preface""; ""Introduction - Morris Rossabi""; ""1/ White Hats, Oil Cakes, and Common Blood: The Hui in the Contemporary Chinese State - Jonathan N. Lipman""; ""2/ The Challenge of Sipsong Panna in the Southwest Development: Resources, and Power in a Multiethnic China - Mette Halskov Hansen""; ""3/ Inner Mongolia: The Dialectics of Colonization and Ethnicity Building - Uradyn E. Bulag""; ""4/ Heteronomy and Its Discontents: "Minzu Regional Autonomy" in Xinjiang - Gardner Bovingdon"" ""5/ Making Xinjiang Safe for the Han? : Contradictions and Ironies of Chinese Governance in China's Northwest - David Bachman""""6/ Tibet and China in the Twentieth Century - Melvyn C. Goldstein""; ""7/ A Thorn in the Dragon's Side: Tibetan Buddhist Culture in China - Matthew T. Kapstein""; ""Bibliography""; ""Contributors""; ""Index""
Sommario/riassunto	Upon coming to power in 1949, the Chinese Communist government proclaimed that its stance toward ethnic minorities--who comprise approximatelyeight percent of China's population--differed from that of previous regimes and that it would help preserve the linguistic and cultural heritage of the fifty-five official "minority nationalities."

However, minority culture suffered widespread destruction in the early decades of the People's Republic of China, and minority areas still lag far behind Han (majority) areas economically. Since the mid-1990s, both domestic and foreign developments have refocused government attention on the inhabitants of China's minority regions, their relationship to the Chinese state, and their foreign ties. Intense economic development of and Han settlement in China's remote minority regions threaten to displace indigenous populations, post-Soviet establishment of independent countries composed mainly of Muslim and Turkic-speaking peoples presents questions for related groups in China, freedom of Mongolia from Soviet control raises the specter of a pan-Mongolian movement encompassing Chinese Mongols, and international groups press for a more autonomous or even independent Tibet. In *Governing China's Multiethnic Frontiers*, leading scholars examine the Chinese government's administration of its ethnic minority regions, particularly border areas where ethnicity is at times a volatile issue and where separatist movements are feared. Seven essays focus on the Muslim Hui, multiethnic southwest China, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, and Tibet. Together these studies provide an overview of government relations with key minority populations, against which one can view evolving dialogues and disputes.
