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Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Introduction: The Excavated Guodian Bamboo Manuscripts (Shirley Chan) -- Part 1. A Philological Reading of the Guodian Manuscripts: The Texts and Textual Formation -- Chapter 2. The Guodian Laozi Materials (Franklin Perkins) -- Chapter 3. On Citation Practices in the Guodian Manuscripts (HE Ruyue and Michael Nylan) -- Chapter 4. Shu (Documents) Repertoire in Argument-Based Texts from Guodian: The Case of Cheng zhi (Things Brought to Completion) (Dirk Meyer) -- Chapter 5. How to Achieve Good Governance—Arguments in the Tang Yu zhi dao (The Ways of Yao and Shun) and the Zhong xin zhi dao (The Ways of Uprightness and Reliability) (Michael Schimmelpfennig) -- Chapter 6. Which Comes First? Dao or De : Evidence from Guodian Manuscripts (Constance A. Cook) -- Chapter 7. Reading heng cheng in the Guodian Bamboo Text Lu Mu Gong wen Zisi (Duke Mu of Lu Asked Zisi) (LIAO Mingchun) -- Part 2. Philosophical Concepts and Arguments in the Guodian Manuscripts -- Chapter 8. The Taiyi

shengshui Cosmogony and Its Role in Early Chinese Thought (Erica Brindley) -- Chapter 9. Daoist Philosophy as Viewed from the Guodian Manuscripts (Barbara Hendrischke) -- Chapter 10. "Sagacity" and the Heaven–Human Relationship in the Wuxing (Erica Brindley) -- Chapter 11. The Qiong da yi shi (Poverty or Success Is a Matter of Timing) and the Concept of Heaven and Humans in Early Confucianism (LIANG Tao) -- Chapter 12. Xing and Qing : Human Nature and Moral Cultivation in the Guodian Text Xing zi ming chu (Nature Derives from Endowment) (Shirley Chan) -- Chapter 13. Body and Mind in the Guodian Manuscripts (Lisa Raphals) -- Chapter 14. Daoist Nature or Confucian Nurture: Moral Development in the Yucong (Thicket of Sayings) (Shirley Chan) -- Chapter 15. The Debate over Coercive Rulership and the "Human Way" in Light of Recently Excavated Warring States Texts (Updated) (Scott Cook) -- Chapter 16. The Guodian Confucian Texts and the Xunzi (TANG Siufu) -- Chapter 17. From the Liu wei (Six Positions) Discussed in the Liu de (Six Virtues) to the San gang (Three Principles of Social Order) (LI Rui) -- Chapter 18. Guodian: A New Window for Understanding the Introduction of Buddhism into China (Kenneth W. Holloway).

Sommario/riassunto

This volume covers the philosophical, historical, religious, and interpretative aspects of the ancient Guodian bamboo manuscripts () which were disintombed in the Guodian Village in Hubei Province, China, in 1993. Considered to be the Chinese equivalent of the Dead Sea Scrolls, these manuscripts are archaeological finds whose importance cannot be underestimated. Many of the texts are without counterparts in the transmitted tradition, and they provide unique insights into the developments of Chinese philosophy in the period between the death of Confucius (551-479 BCE) and the writings of Mencius (c.372-289 BCE), and beyond. Divided into two parts, the book first provides inter-textual contexts and backgrounds of the Guodian manuscripts. The second part covers the main concepts and arguments in the Guodian texts, including cosmology and metaphysics, political philosophy, moral psychology, and theory of human nature. The thematic essays serve as an introduction to the philosophical significance and the key philosophical concepts/thought of each text contained in the Guodian corpus. Each chapter has a section on the implications of the texts for the received tradition, or for the purpose of comparing some of the text(s) with the received tradition in terms of the key philosophical concepts as well as the reading and interpretation of the texts. The volume covers most of the texts inscribed on the 800-odd slips of the Guodian corpus dated to the fourth century BCE.
