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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910422645203321 |
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| Titolo | Chinese Diplomacy and the Paris Peace Conference // Qi-hua Tang; Zhonghu Yan |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Singapore : , : Palgrave Macmillan, , [2020] ©2020 |
| ISBN | 981-15-5636-9 |
| Edizione | [1st ed. 2020.] |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (VI, 329 p. 20 illus., 14 illus. in color.) |
| Collana | China Connections, , 2662-7868 |
| Disciplina | 818.5402 |
| Soggetti | Diplomacy History of China International relations |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Introduction -- China's Preparation for the Peace Conference during WWI -- Preparation for the Peace Conference after the Ceasefire of WWI -- The Diplomacy during the Peace Conference -- Refusal to Sign the Peace Treaty -- After the Refusal -- Conclusion. |
| Sommario/riassunto | This book examines Republican China's diplomatic strategies and engagement, and power reconfiguration in East Asia after 1914. Drawing on a vast trove of primary sources, including newly declassified archival materials, the book offers not only a richly-informed account of how the Beiyang government conducted diplomacy at the Paris Peace Conference but also new insights into why. Calling into question such long-held beliefs that the Beiyang government was inadequately prepared for the Conference, was treasonous in urging the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, and that its behavior at the Conference amounted to a thorough failure of diplomacy, the author tries to make a case for a much more nuanced re-interpretation and re-evaluation of this critical period in the country's diplomatic history. |