

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450073703321
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Titolo	Modern Mongolia [[electronic resource]] : from khans to commissars to capitalists / / Morris Rossabi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2005
ISBN	1-59734-759-0 1-282-35808-1 9786612358081 0-520-93862-3 1-4175-8504-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (435 p.)
Disciplina	951.7/3
Soggetti	HISTORY / Asia / General Electronic books. Mongolia History Mongolia History 1990-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Mongolia: a peaceful transition -- From Russian to western influence -- Pressure for a market economy, 1990/1997 -- Political and economic dislocations, 1997/2004 -- Herding and the new economy -- Poverty and other social problems -- Culture and the market economy -- A new Mongolia in a new world -- Sino-Mongolian relations.
Sommario/riassunto	Land-locked between its giant neighbors, Russia and China, Mongolia was the first Asian country to adopt communism and the first to abandon it. When the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990's, Mongolia turned to international financial agencies-including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank-for help in compensating for the economic changes caused by disruptions in the communist world. Modern Mongolia is the best-informed and most thorough account to date of the political economy of Mongolia during the past decade. In it, Morris Rossabi explores the effects of the withdrawal of Soviet assistance, the role of international financial agencies in supporting a pure market economy,

and the ways that new policies have led to greater political freedom but also to unemployment, poverty, increasingly inequitable distribution of income, and deterioration in the education, health, and well-being of Mongolian society. Rossabi demonstrates that the agencies providing grants and loans insisted on Mongolia's adherence to a set of policies that did not generally take into account the country's unique heritage and society. Though the sale of state assets, minimalist government, liberalization of trade and prices, a balanced budget, and austerity were supposed to yield marked economic growth, Mongolia-the world's fifth-largest per capita recipient of foreign aid-did not recover as expected. As he details this painful transition from a collective to a capitalist economy, Rossabi also analyzes the cultural effects of the sudden opening of Mongolia to democracy. He looks at the broader implications of Mongolia's international situation and considers its future, particularly in relation to China.
