

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910455599903321
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Titolo	Chinese visions of family and state, 1915-1953 [[electronic resource] /] / Susan L. Glosser ; foreword by Linda Kerber
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, 2003
ISBN	1-282-75889-6 9786612758898 0-520-92639-0 1-59734-535-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (298 p.)
Collana	Asia--local studies/global themes ; ; 5
Disciplina	951.04
Soggetti	Families - China - History Family policy - China Domestic relations - China Electronic books. China History Republic, 1912-1949 China History 1949-1976
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 (p. 249-261) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Tables and Figures -- Foreword -- Acknowledgments -- Chronology -- Introduction: Evolve or Perish -- chapter 1. Saving Self and Nation: The New Culture Movement's Family-Reform Discourse -- Chapter 2. Making the National Family: The Statist Xiao Jiating -- Chapter 3. Marketing the Family: You Huaigao and the Entrepreneurial Xiao Jiating -- Chapter 4. Love for Revolution: Xiao Jiating in the People's Republic -- Conclusion: The Malleability of the Xiao Jiating Ideal -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Glossary -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	At the dawn of the twentieth century, China's sovereignty was fragile at best. In the face of international pressure and domestic upheaval, young urban radicals-desperate for reforms that would save their nation-clamored for change, championing Western-inspired family reform and promoting free marriage choice and economic and emotional independence. But what came to be known as the New

Culture Movement had the unwitting effect of fostering totalitarianism. In this wide-reaching, engrossing book, Susan Glosser examines how the link between family order and national salvation affected state-building and explores its lasting consequences. Glosser effectively argues that the replacement of the authoritarian, patriarchal, extended family structure with an egalitarian, conjugal family was a way for the nation to preserve crucial elements of its traditional culture. Her comprehensive research shows that in the end, family reform paved the way for the Chinese Communist Party to establish a deeply intrusive state that undermined the legitimacy of individual rights.

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