

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456621703321
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Titolo	Traps embraced or escaped [[electronic resource] ] : elites in the economic development of modern Japan and China / / Carl Mosk
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore ; ; Hackensack, N.J., : World Scientific, c2011
ISBN	1-283-14830-7 9786613148308 981-4287-53-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (277 p.)
Disciplina	327.51052 330.951
Soggetti	Economic development - China Economic development - Japan Electronic books. Asia Economic conditions
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. 245-253) and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. 1. Introduction -- pt. 2. Coping with the western challenge, 1840-1911 -- pt. 3. Traps, 1910-1955 -- pt. 4. Consequences, 1945-2005.
Sommario/riassunto	This book explores economic development in East Asia between 1870 and 1953 in terms of escaping or succumbing to four interrelated traps: demographic; political; economic; and, cultural. Demographic traps include Malthusian traps and poor health and longevity (measured by anthropometric indicators and life expectancy). Political traps include both domestic traps - corruption, internal conflict - and external traps, namely geopolitical traps involving foreign powers. Economic traps include poor infrastructure (banks, harbors, roads, railroads, steam shipping, hydroelectric power) or raw materia