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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Technologizing Orientalism: An Introduction / Roh, David S. / Huang, Betsy / Niu, Greta A. -- Part I. Iterations and Instantiations -- 1. Demon Courage and Dread Engines: America's Reaction to the Russo-Japanese War and the Genesis of the Japanese Invasion Sublime / Hough, Kenneth -- 2. "Out of the Glamorous, Mystic East": Techno-Orientalism in Early Twentieth-Century U.S. Radio Broadcasting / Crum, Jason -- 3. Looking Backward, from 2019 to 1882: Reading the Dystopias of Future Multiculturalism in the Utopias of Asian Exclusion / Bascara, Victor -- 4. Queer Excavations: Technology, Temporality, Race / Liu, Warren -- 5. I, Stereotype: Detained in the Uncanny Valley / Chu, Seo-Young -- 6. The Mask of Fu Manchu, Son of Sinbad, and Star Wars IV: A New Hope: Techno-Orientalist Cinema as a Mnemotechnics of Twentieth-Century U.S.-Asian Conflicts / Kosnik, Abigail De -- 7. Racial Speculations: (Bio) technology, Battlestar Galactica, and a Mixed-Race Imagining / Huh, Jinny -- 8. Never Stop Playing: StarCraft and Asian Gamer Death /

Choe, Steve / Kim, Se Young -- 9. "Home Is Where the War Is": Remaking Techno-Orientalist Militarism on the Homefront / Yeats, Dylan -- Part II. Reappropriations and Recuperations -- 10. Thinking about Bodies, Souls, and Race in Gibson's Bridge Trilogy / Tran, Julie Ha -- 11. Reimagining Asian Women in Feminist Post-Cyberpunk Science Fiction / Allan, Kathryn -- 12. The Cruel Optimism of Asian Futurity and the Reparative Practices of Sonny Liew's Malinky Robot / Bahng, Aimee -- 13. Palimpsestic Orientalisms and Antiblackness: or, Joss Whedon's Grand Vision of an Asian/American Tomorrow / Ishii, Douglas -- 14. "How Does It Not Know What It Is?": The Techno-Orientalized Body in Ridley Scott's Blade Runner and Larissa Lai's Automaton Biographies / Prater, Tzarina T. / Fung, Catherine -- 15. A Poor Man from a Poor Country: Nam June Paik, TV-Buddha, and the Techno-Orientalist Lens / Park, Charles -- Desiring Machines, Repellant Subjects: A Conclusion / Roh, David S. / Huang, Betsy / Niu, Greta A. -- Bibliography -- Contributors -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

What will the future look like? To judge from many speculative fiction films and books, from Blade Runner to Cloud Atlas, the future will be full of cities that resemble Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Shanghai, and it will be populated mainly by cold, unfeeling citizens who act like robots. Techno-Orientalism investigates the phenomenon of imagining Asia and Asians in hypo- or hyper-technological terms in literary, cinematic, and new media representations, while critically examining the stereotype of Asians as both technologically advanced and intellectually primitive, in dire need of Western consciousness-raising. The collection's fourteen original essays trace the discourse of techno-orientalism across a wide array of media, from radio serials to cyberpunk novels, from Sax Rohmer's Dr. Fu Manchu to Firefly. Applying a variety of theoretical, historical, and interpretive approaches, the contributors consider techno-orientalism a truly global phenomenon. In part, they tackle the key question of how these stereotypes serve to both express and assuage Western anxieties about Asia's growing cultural influence and economic dominance. Yet the book also examines artists who have appropriated techno-orientalist tropes in order to critique racist and imperialist attitudes. Techno-Orientalism is the first collection to define and critically analyze a phenomenon that pervades both science fiction and real-world news coverage of Asia. With essays on subjects ranging from wartime rhetoric of race and technology to science fiction by contemporary Asian American writers to the cultural implications of Korean gamers, this volume offers innovative perspectives and broadens conventional discussions in Asian American Cultural studies.
