

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910460698503321
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Titolo	The diplomacy of migration : transnational lives and the making of U.S.-Chinese relations in the Cold War // Meredith Oyen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, New York ; ; London, [England] : , : Cornell University Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-5017-0146-0 1-5017-0147-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (321 p.)
Collana	United States in the World
Disciplina	327.73051
Soggetti	Chinese - United States Cold War Electronic books. United States Foreign relations China China Foreign relations United States United States Emigration and immigration Government policy China Emigration and immigration
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: The Floating Population and Foreign Policy -- Part I. Migration Diplomacy at War -- 1. Unequal Allies: Renegotiating Exclusions -- 2. The Diaspora Goes to War: Human Capital and China's Defense -- 3. A Fight on All Fronts: The Chinese Civil War, Restored Migration, and Emigration as National Policy -- Part II. Migrant Cold Warriors -- 4. Chinese Migrants as Cold Warriors: Immigration and Deportation in the 1950's -- 5. Remitting to the Enemy: Transnational Family Finances and Foreign Policy -- 6. Crossing the Bamboo Curtain: Using Refugee Policy to Support Free China -- Part III. Shifting Exclusions -- 7. Cold War Hostages: Repatriation Policy and the Sino-American Ambassadorial Talks -- 8. Visa Diplomacy: The Taiwan Independence Movement and Changing U.S.-Chinese Relations -- Conclusion: Coming in from the Cold -- Note on Sources -- Notes -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

During the Cold War, both Chinese and American officials employed a wide range of migration policies and practices to pursue legitimacy, security, and prestige. They focused on allowing or restricting immigration, assigning refugee status, facilitating student exchanges, and enforcing deportations. The Diplomacy of Migration focuses on the role these practices played in the relationship between the United States and the Republic of China both before and after the move to Taiwan. Meredith Oyen identifies three patterns of migration diplomacy: migration legislation as a tool to achieve foreign policy goals, migrants as subjects of diplomacy and propaganda, and migration controls that shaped the Chinese American community. Using sources from diplomatic and governmental archives in the United States, the Republic of China on Taiwan, the People's Republic of China, and the United Kingdom, Oyen applies a truly transnational perspective. The Diplomacy of Migration combines important innovations in the field of diplomatic history with new international trends in migration history to show that even though migration issues were often considered "low stakes" or "low risk" by foreign policy professionals concerned with Cold War politics and the nuclear age, they were neither "no risk" nor unimportant to larger goals. Instead, migration diplomacy became a means of facilitating other foreign policy priorities, even when doing so came at great cost for migrants themselves.
