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Contents; List of Illustrations; Acknowledgments; Note on Names, Terms, and Romanization; 1. Introduction: Administration at the Grass Roots in East and Southeast Asia; 2. The Little Platoon: Structuring the Neighborhood; 3. Elections, Bogus and Bona Fide; 4. Power Relations at the Alley Level; 5. Perceptions and Interaction; 6. Thick Networks and State-Mobilized Volunteers; 7. Thin Networks and the Appeals of Organic Statism; 8. The Landscape of Grassroots Administration: Comparative Cases; 9. Conclusion; Appendix 1: Research Methods; Appendix 2: Beyond the Two Capitals; Notes; References
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Sommario/riassunto

Most social science studies of local organizations tend to focus on "civil society" associations, voluntary associations independent from state control, whereas government-sponsored organizations tend to be theorized in totalitarian terms as "mass organizations" or manifestations of state corporatism. *Roots of the State* examines neighborhood associations in Beijing and Taipei that occupy a unique space that exists between these concepts. Benjamin L. Read views the work of the neighborhood associations he studies as a form of "administrative grassroots engagement."
