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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Preface -- Theorizing Sinism: An Analysis of Chinesia -- History as Fiction, Fiction as History: The Manchu Conquest of China in Dutch and English Drama of the 17th Century -- The Chinesian Vision: From the Image of China as a Nation of Christian Converts in the German Fiction of the 17th Century to That of an Ideal State Ruled by Confucianized Tartars in the Drama of Voltaire -- The Transformation of Chinesia from Jesuitical Fiction to Jesuit College Drama: A Preliminary Survey -- The Transplanted Chinese Orphan In England, France, Germany, Italy And his Repatriation to Hong Kong -- Sinism Within a Despotic Oriental Utopia: From Montesquieu's l'Esprit des lois to Albrecht von Haller's Political Novel Usong -- Chinesia in Weimar: The Transition From J.G. Herder's Sinophobia to S. von Seckendorff's Sino-Romanticism -- In Lieu of a Conclusion: The Eschatological Sinism of Hegel, Marx, and Weber -- Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	Our perception of the Others is based on our conception of ourselves. In theory the Others should be different. If necessary, we alter their images to accommodate the apperception of ourselves. Thus Chinesia, an amalgamation of facts and fiction, was created. In order to avoid

previous repetition of stereotypes and prejudices, the present study re-examines the parameters which created Chinesia and traces its development to the end of the 18th century. It discusses the reports of the European seafarers and trade embassies to China and analyzes the situation of the Jesuit missionaries and their European publications on China. These helped to develop a wondrous China during Baroque and early Enlightenment which, however, gradually became offensive to Christian pride. After Christian Wolff was dismissed from the University of Halle and banished from Prussia for eulogizing Confucianism, China was steadily downgraded, particularly by the historicists who were re-evaluating the position of Europe in World History. The white race was perceived as superior to all other races (David Hume and Kant); consequently, the complexion of the Chinese became increasingly yellower. It darkened from the Meerscham hue (Lichtenberg) to the color of dried orange peels (Gobineau) toward the end of the 19th century. Finally, the Chinese were considered to be too stupid to have created the Chinese culture. The literary works of these periods reflect this development. The literary study begins with the analysis of European dramatization of the Manchu Conquest of China and its subsequent fictional Christianization. Then the Jesuit plays with Chinese themes are discussed, for the first time in literary history. Also analyzed is the reception of the Chinese Orphan motive in European literature which was the turning point in downgrading China, and subsequently Montesquieu's impact on Albrecht von Haller's novel "Usona" is examined. Thereafter, the study scrutinizes the contradictory positions of Herder and von Seckendorff (or Goethe, for that matter) in Weimar. The book concludes with a concise analysis of the 'eschatological sinism' of Hegel, Marx and Weber to indicate the development of the later centuries.
