

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910462357603321
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Titolo	The archaeology of China : from the late paleolithic to the early bronze age // Li Liu, Stanford University, Xingcan Chen, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2012
ISBN	1-107-22442-X 1-139-41936-6 1-139-01530-3 1-139-42140-9 1-139-41731-2 1-139-42345-2
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxii, 475 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge world archaeology
Disciplina	931
Soggetti	Prehistoric peoples - China Archaeology - China - History - 20th century Antiquities, Prehistoric - China
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Chinese archaeology : past, present, and future -- Environment and ecology -- Foragers and collectors in the Pleistocene-Holocene transition (24,000-9000 cal. BP) -- Domestication of plants and animals -- Neolithization : sedentism and food production in the early Neolithic (7000-5000 BC) -- Emergence of social inequality : the middle Neolithic (5000-3000 BC) -- Rise and fall of early complex societies : the late Neolithic (3000-2000 BC) -- Formation of early states in the Central Plain : Erlitou and Erligang (1900/1800-1250 BC) -- Bronze cultures of the northern frontiers and beyond during the early second millennium BC -- The late Shang dynasty and its neighbors (1250-1046 BC) -- Chinese civilization in comparative perspective -- Appendix. Horse bones in faunal assemblages from Neolithic and early Bronze Age sites in north China.
Sommario/riassunto	This book explores the roles of agricultural development and advancing social complexity in the processes of state formation in China. Over a

period of about 10,000 years, it follows evolutionary trajectories of society from the last Palaeolithic hunting-gathering groups, through Neolithic farming villages and on to the Bronze Age Shang dynasty in the latter half of the second millennium BC. Li Liu and Xingcan Chen demonstrate that sociopolitical evolution was multicentric and shaped by inter-polity factionalism and competition, as well as by the many material technologies introduced from other parts of the world. The book illustrates how ancient Chinese societies were transformed during this period from simple to complex, tribal to urban, and preliterate to literate.

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