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Nota di contenuto Preliminary Material / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- \'THE SECRET

OF CHINA'S DESTINY\' / Philip Jaffe -- CHINA'S DESTINY -- CHAPTER TWO: THE ORIGINS OF NATIONAL HUMILIATION AND SOURCES OF THE REVOLUTION / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER THREE:

THE DEEPENING EFFECTS OF THE UNEQUAL TREATIES / Chiang Kai-Shek

and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER FOUR: FROM THE NORTHERN EXPEDITION
TO THE WAR OF RESISTANCE / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe --

TO THE WAR OF RESISTANCE / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER FIVE: CONTENTS OF THE NEW EQUAL TREATIES AND THE

ESSENTIALS OF THE FUTURE WORK OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION /

Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER SIX: FUNDAMENTAL

PROBLEMS OF REVOLUTIONARY NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER SEVEN: THE ARTERY OF CHINA'S REVOLUTIONARY RECONSTRUCTION AND THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

DETERMINING HER DESTINY / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe --

CHAPTER EIGHT: CHINA'S DESTINY AND THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD /

Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CONCLUSION / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHINESE ECONOMIC THEORY -- CHAPTER ONE:

DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF CHINESE ECONOMIC THEORY / Chiang Kai-

Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER TWO: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHINESE AND WESTERN ECONOMIC THEORIES / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER THREE: ECONOMIC DUTIES OF THE STATE IN ANCIENT CHINA / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER FOUR: ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES OF THE \'MIN SHENG CHU I\'-THE PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHAPTER FIVE: CHINA'S FUTURE ECONOMIC IDEALS / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- Commentary on CHINA'S DESTINY and CHINESE ECONOMIC THEORY / Philip Jaffe -- GUIDE TO THE PRONUNCIATION OF CHINESE NAMES / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- CHRONOLOGY OF CHINESE DYNASTIES / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe -- INDEX / Chiang Kai-Shek and Philip Jaffe.

Sommario/riassunto

Chiang's two classic works were first published as a combined volume in English in 1947 (the original Chinese version of China's Destiny – by far the larger work – first appeared in 1943 selling over a million copies), examine the challenges facing the modernization (and new economic foundation) of China – from the humiliation of the unequal treaties, through to the struggles of the first half of the twentieth century, including the problem of 'establishing a philosophy of revolution and reconstruction'. The volume is annotated and introduced by Philip Jaffe with an extensive essay entitled 'The Secrets of China's Destiny' where he sets out the history and writing of the two books, arguing that '...what happens to China is of vital importance to world peace and prosperity, but it is not so easy to evaluate the conflicting forces and contradictory trends in present-day China.' Jaffe was an apologist for Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang China and was prosecuted (unsuccessfully) on espionage and subversion charges in 1945 as editor of the pro-Communist magazine Amerasia.