

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910464957603321
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Titolo	East Asian development : foundations and strategies // Dwight H. Perkins
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Massachusetts : , : Harvard University Press, , 2013
ISBN	0-674-72711-8 0-674-72613-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (222 p.)
Collana	The Edwin O. Reischauer lectures
Classificazione	QG 800
Disciplina	338.95
Soggetti	Economic development - East Asia Economic development - Southeast Asia Electronic books. East Asia Economic conditions Southeast Asia Economic conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- 1. The Historical Foundations of East Asian Development -- 2. Understanding East Asian Growth -- 3. Government Intervention versus Laissez-Faire in Northeast Asia -- 4. Successes and Failures in Southeast Asia -- 5. From Command to Market Economy in China and Vietnam -- 6. The End of High Growth Rates -- Notes -- Acknowledgments -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the early 1960's fewer than five percent of Japanese owned automobiles, China's per capita income was among the lowest in Asia, and living standards in rural South Korea put it among the world's poorest countries. Today, these are three of the most powerful economies on earth. Dwight Perkins draws on extensive experience in the region to explain how Asia sustained such rapid economic growth in the second half of the twentieth century. East Asian Development covers Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan, as well as Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and China--a behemoth larger than the other economies combined. While the overall picture of Asian growth is positive, no single economic policy has been effective regionwide. Perkins uncovers why some initially egalitarian societies

have ended up in very different places, with Japan, for example, maintaining a modest gap between rich and poor while China has become one of Asia's most unequal economies. With Korean and Japanese growth sluggish and China losing steam, Perkins asks whether this is a regional phenomenon or typical of all economies at this stage of development. His inquiry reminds us that the uncharted waters of China's vast economy make predictions speculative at best.
