

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465699703321
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Titolo	Constructing East Asia [[electronic resource] ] : technology, ideology, and empire in Japan's wartime era, 1931-1945 // Aaron Stephen Moore
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Stanford, Calif., : Stanford University Press, 2013
ISBN	0-8047-8669-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 314 pages) : illustrations (black and white)
Classificazione	ZG 9363
Disciplina	303.48/3095209043
Soggetti	Technology - Political aspects - Japan - History - 20th century Technology and state - Japan - History - 20th century Public works - East Asia - History - 20th century Fascism - Japan - History - 20th century World War, 1939-1945 - Japan Electronic books. Japan Colonies Asia History 20th century Japan History 1926-1945
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Constructing East Asia -- Contents -- Figures -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction. The Technological Imaginary of Imperial Japan -- Chapter 1. Revolutionary Technologies of Life -- Chapter 2. Technologies of Asian Development -- Chapter 3. Constructing the Continent -- Chapter 4. Damming the Empire -- Chapter 5. Designing the Social Mechanism -- Epilogue. Legacies of Techno- Fascism and Techno-Imperialism in Postwar Japan -- Notes -- Works Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The conventional understanding of Japanese wartime ideology has for years been summed up by just a few words: anti-modern, spiritualist, and irrational. Yet such a cut-and-dried picture is not at all reflective of the principles that guided national policy from 1931–1945. Challenging the status quo, Constructing East Asia examines how Japanese intellectuals, bureaucrats, and engineers used technology as a system of power and mobilization—what historian Aaron Moore terms a "technological imaginary"—to rally people in Japan and its expanding

empire. By analyzing how these different actors defined technology in public discourse, national policies, and large-scale infrastructure projects, Moore reveals wartime elites as far more calculated in thought and action than previous scholarship allows. Moreover, Moore positions the wartime origins of technology deployment as an essential part of the country's national policy and identity, upending another predominant narrative—namely, that technology did not play a modernizing role in Japan until the "economic miracle" of the postwar years.

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