

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910737390903321
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Titolo	Social organization in South China, 1911-1949 : the case of the Kuan lineage of Kai-ping County // by Yuen-fong Woon
Pubbl/distr/stampa	2020 Ann Arbor, Michigan : , : University of Michigan Press, , 1984
ISBN	9780472128235 047212823X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xi, 158 pages)
Collana	Michigan Monographs in Chinese Studies ; ; no. 48
Classificazione	SOC000000SOC008000SOC026000
Disciplina	305/.0951/27
Soggetti	Social structure Social classes - China - Kaiping Shi Kinship - China - Kaiping Shi Kaiping Shi (China) Social conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Bibliography: pages 153-158.
Sommario/riassunto	Bridging the collapse of the Confucian state and the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the period 1911–49 is particularly fascinating to historians, anthropologists, sociologists and political scientists. Unfortunately, it is also a very confusing period, full of shifts and changes in economic, social, and political organizations. The social implications of these changes, and the relationships between officials on the subdistrict level, the unofficial leaders, and the bulk of the peasantry remain inadequately known. South China, which nurtured the Communist Party in its formative years, is a particularly interesting case. In this study I use the Kuan lineage of K'ai-p'ing as a case study to show the effects of demographic, economic, administrative, and educational changes after the Treaty of Nanking (1842) on patrilineal kinship as a principle of social organization in South China. [vii]