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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgements; Notes; List of tables; List of figures; 1 Introduction; 2 A comparative history of university entrance examinations: to the end of the Japanese Empire; 3 A comparative history of university entrance examinations: from 1945 to now; 4 What kind of exams? Questions of world history and mathematics in the three countries; 5 The cram world: why so large in East Asia?; 6 With help from the gods: prayer, luck and spiritual strength: the desecularization of entrance exam systems; 7 Time, effort and money: mobilizing private resources to gain social status; 8 The news media and the dark side of the exam systems 9 Conclusion; Appendix: Key to abbreviated citations; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	This text examines the enormous pressure placed on University students in Japan, Korea and Taiwan which have led to the rapid expansion of the "cramming" industry and to a growing number of students looking to religion and spirituality for guidance. The book examines the issue of the rise in youth suicides, and the dramatic rise

in levels of cheating; both raising fundamental questions about the education system in the late 1990's.

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