

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778803803321
Titolo	Sea power and the Asia-Pacific : the triumph of Neptune? / / editors, Geoffrey Till, Patrick C. Bratton
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Milton Park, Abingdon ; ; New York : , : Routledge, , 2012
ISBN	1-136-62723-5 1-283-44308-2 9786613443083 0-203-80250-0 1-136-62724-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xviii, 277 pages)
Collana	Cass series--naval policy and history, , 1366-9478 ; ; 47
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Disciplina	359/.03091823
Soggetti	Sea-power - Pacific Area Sea-power - Pacific Area - History Navies - Pacific Area Navies - Asia Pacific Area History, Naval Pacific Area Strategic aspects
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	pt. 1. The navies of the Asia-Pacific -- pt. 2. Transitions.
Sommario/riassunto	With particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region, this book examines the rise and fall of sea powers. In the Asia-Pacific region there has been significant expansion of sea-based economies together with burgeoning naval power. Many claim that these processes will transform the world's future economic and security relationships. The book addresses the question of to what extent the notion of 'Asia rising' is reflected by and dependent on its developing sea power. A central theme is the Chinese challenge to long-term Western maritime ascendancy and what might be the consequences of this.