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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Administration and authority structures in rural China from a historic perspective -- Direct village elections as a new element of administrative control and legitimation -- Previous studies on village elections and conceptual framework -- Three case studies -- Conclusions.
Sommario/riassunto	This monograph ties in the scholarly debate on Chinese village elections and their consequences for China's political system. By critically assessing the recent literature on village elections and drawing on qualitative fieldwork data gathered in six villages of two provinces and one urban district, it contributes to our understanding of the nexus between political participation and cadre accountability at the grassroots and highlights a number of factors ensuring the persistence of one-party rule in contemporary China.