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Sommario/riassunto	In the first half of 2003, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) struck China (including Hong Kong), causing panic and claiming manylives. The unknown nature of SARS at that time also jolted theeconomic growth of China and Hong Kong, disrupted the social life oftheir citizens and created much stress and strain for their politicalsystems and governance. Like other major crises, the management of theSARS crisis provides a good opportunity to examine

the strengths and weaknesses of the political systems in China and Hong Kong. From the outset, scholars at the East Asian Institute (EAI) followed c
