

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786159303321
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Titolo	Social organizations and the authoritarian state in China // Timothy Hildebrandt [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013
ISBN	1-139-62779-1 1-107-23572-3 1-139-62768-6 1-139-62702-3 1-139-62790-2 1-139-62724-4 1-139-62735-X 1-139-10876-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 217 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Classificazione	POL040020
Disciplina	361.7/60951
Soggetti	Non-governmental organizations - China Civil society - China China Social conditions 2000-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: 1. Self-limiting organizations and codependent state-society relations: environmental, HIV/AIDS, and gay and lesbian NGOs in China; 2. Political opportunities, by accident and design; 3. Central policies, local priorities: regional variation of the political opportunity structure; 4. Proximate solutions to insoluble problems: adaption to the political opportunity structure; 5. More money, more problems: struggling with economic opportunities; 6. Forever the twain shall meet: economic and political opportunities converge; 7. Strong individual relationships, weak institutional ties: the double-edged pursuit of personal opportunities; 8. Social organizations and the future of Chinese civil society.
Sommario/riassunto	Received wisdom suggests that social organizations (such as non-government organizations, NGOs) have the power to upend the political

status quo. However, in many authoritarian contexts, such as China, NGO emergence has not resulted in this expected regime change. In this book, Timothy Hildebrandt shows how NGOs adapt to the changing interests of central and local governments, working in service of the state to address social problems. In doing so, the nature of NGO emergence in China effectively strengthens the state, rather than weakens it. This book offers a groundbreaking comparative analysis of Chinese social organizations across the country in three different issue areas: environmental protection, HIV/AIDS prevention, and gay and lesbian rights. It suggests a new way of thinking about state-society relations in authoritarian countries, one that is distinctly co-dependent in nature: governments require the assistance of NGOs to govern while NGOs need governments to extend political, economic and personal opportunities to exist.
