

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786177503321
Titolo	China's place in global geopolitics : international, regional and domestic challenges // edited by Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard and Bertel Heurlin
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxon [England] : , : Routledge, , 2002
ISBN	1-136-12674-0 1-283-96203-9 0-203-03737-5 1-136-12666-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (210 p.)
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Disciplina	327.51
Soggetti	Geopolitics - China China Foreign relations 1976- China Politics and government 1976-2002
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. I. International challenges -- pt. II. Regional challenges -- pt. III. Domestic challenges.
Sommario/riassunto	This book investigates the major internal and external pressures and constraints facing China as it enters the new century. It is widely recognised that in its capacity as a nuclear power and as a member of the UN's Security Council, China plays a major role in world politics. China is also a growing economic power, which according to some economists is projected to overtake the US 20 years from now. China has clearly emerged as the major power in the East Asian region and the major issues of contention in the region such as the tension on the Korean peninsula, the Taiwan issue and the conflict