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Autore	Lam Tong <1967->
Titolo	A passion for facts [[electronic resource]] : social surveys and the construction of the Chinese nation state, 1900-1949 / / Tong Lam
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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	The rise of the fact and the re-imagining of China -- From divide and count to combine and count -- Foolish people versus soulstealers -- The nationalization of facts and the affective state -- Time, space, and state effect -- China as a social laboratory.
Sommario/riassunto	In this path-breaking book, Tong Lam examines the emergence of the "culture of fact" in modern China, showing how elites and intellectuals sought to transform the dynastic empire into a nation-state, thereby ensuring its survival. Lam argues that an epistemological break away from traditional modes of understanding the observable world began around the turn of the twentieth century. Tracing the Neo-Confucian school of evidentiary research and the modern departure from it, Lam shows how, through the rise of the social survey, "the fact" became a basic conceptual medium and source of truth. In focusing on China's social survey movement, A Passion for Facts analyzes how information generated by a range of research practices-census, sociological investigation, and ethnography-was mobilized by competing political factions to imagine, manage, and remake the nation.