

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789808803321
Autore	Xu Guoqi
Titolo	Strangers on the Western Front [[electronic resource] ] : Chinese workers in the Great War // Xu Guoqi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 2011
ISBN	0-674-06055-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (367 p.)
Disciplina	940.3089/951044
Soggetti	World War, 1914-1918 - Conscript labor - Europe World War, 1914-1918 - Participation, Chinese World War, 1914-1918 - Great Britain World War, 1914-1918 - France Foreign workers, Chinese - Europe - History - 20th century Working class - China - History - 20th century China Relations Great Britain China Relations France Great Britain Relations China France Relations China
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Great War and great crisis : China, Britain, France, and the "laborers as soldiers" strategy -- The recruitment and European odyssey of the men for Britain and France -- The hidden history of the secret Canadian pathway -- Work -- Treatment and perceptions -- Strangers in a strange world : Chinese lives in Europe -- American soldiers and Chinese laborers -- The association men and Chinese laborers -- The fusion of teaching and learning : students as teachers and vice versa -- A fusion of civilizations -- Appendix 1: Huimin contract with the French government -- Appendix 2: British contract -- Selected glossary.
Sommario/riassunto	This is a fresh work of history that crosses thematic boundaries: Chinese history, WWI history, world history, migration and labor history. It recovers the lost story of 140,000 Chinese workers, men mostly from the Northern Chinese province of Shandong, who were

recruited by the British and French governments to support their fight against the Germans during WWI. These workers later were also “imported” to the US and Canada as those countries joined the war and felt the need for additional labor. The work is based on a decade of archival research in China, Taiwan, France, Germany, the US, Canada, and Britain. It sheds light on these long-forgotten workers, who were instrumental in the Allied efforts that resulted in a defeat of Germany. Yet the persistent racism they encountered in the West, and ultimately the erasure of their contribution both by the countries they served and the Chinese elites who recruited them for the purpose, raises the question of how power determines who is included and excluded from the historical record.

---