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Autore Edgerton-Tarpley Kathryn <1970->

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Nota di contenuto

Shanxi, greater China, and the famine -- Experiencing the fami

Shanxi, greater China, and the famine -- Experiencing the famine: the hierarchy of suffering in a famine song from Xiezhou -- The wrath of heaven versus human greed -- Qing officialdom and the politics of famine -- Views from the outside: science, railroads, and laissez-faire economics -- Hybrid voices: the famine and Jiangnan activism -- Family and gender in famine -- The "feminization of famine" and the feminization of nationalism -- Eating culture: cannibalism and the semiotics of starvation, 1870-2001 -- Epilogue. New tears for new

times: the famine revisited.

Sommario/riassunto This multi-layered history of a horrific famine that took place in late-

nineteenth-century China focuses on cultural responses to trauma. The massive drought/famine that killed at least ten million people in north China during the late 1870's remains one of China's most severe disasters and provides a vivid window through which to study the social side of a nation's tragedy. Kathryn Edgerton-Tarpley's original approach explores an array of new source materials, including songs, poems, stele inscriptions, folklore, and oral accounts of the famine

from Shanxi Province, its epicenter. She juxtaposes these narratives with central government, treaty-port, and foreign debates over the meaning of the events and shows how the famine, which occurred during a period of deepening national crisis, elicited widely divergent

reactions from different levels of Chinese society.