

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910790557703321
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Titolo	The Modern Spirit of Asia : The Spiritual and the Secular in China and India // Peter van der Veer
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, NJ : , : Princeton University Press, , [2013] ©2014
ISBN	1-4008-4855-5
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (297 p.)
Disciplina	306.6095
Soggetti	China -- Religious life and customs India -- Religious life and customs Nationalism -- China -- Religious aspects Nationalism -- India -- Religious aspects Religion and sociology -- China Religion and sociology -- India Secularism -- China -- History Secularism -- India -- History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Spirituality in Modern Society -- Chapter 3. The Making of Oriental Religion -- Chapter 4. Conversion to Indian and Chinese Modernities -- Chapter 5. Secularism's Magic -- Chapter 6. "Smash Temples, Build Schools": Comparing Secularism in India and China -- Chapter 7. The Spiritual Body -- Chapter 8. Muslims in India and China -- Chapter 9. Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Modern Spirit of Asia challenges the notion that modernity in China and India are derivative imitations of the West, arguing that these societies have transformed their ancient traditions in unique and distinctive ways. Peter van der Veer begins with nineteenth-century imperial history, exploring how Western concepts of spirituality, secularity, religion, and magic were used to translate the traditions of India and China. He traces how modern Western notions of religion and

magic were incorporated into the respective nation-building projects of Chinese and Indian nationalist intellectuals, yet how modernity in China and India is by no means uniform. While religion is a centerpiece of Indian nationalism, it is viewed in China as an obstacle to progress that must be marginalized and controlled. *The Modern Spirit of Asia* moves deftly from Kandinsky's understanding of spirituality in art to Indian yoga and Chinese qi gong, from modern theories of secularism to histories of Christian conversion, from Orientalist constructions of religion to Chinese campaigns against magic and superstition, and from Muslim Kashmir to Muslim Xinjiang. Van der Veer, an outspoken proponent of the importance of comparative studies of religion and society, eloquently makes his case in this groundbreaking examination of the spiritual and the secular in China and India.

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