

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910792096303321
Autore	Gao Yuan <1952->
Titolo	Born red [[electronic resource]] : a chronicle of the Cultural Revolution // Gao Yuan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Stanford, Calif., : Stanford University Press, 1987
ISBN	0-8047-6589-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (417 p.)
Disciplina	951.05 951.05/6
Soggetti	HISTORY / Asia / China China History China History Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976 Personal narratives
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Born Red -- Frontmatter -- Contents -- Foreword -- The Hold of History -- Learning to Be Red and Expert -- The Thirty-Six Stratagems -- Hidden Messages -- Ox Ghosts and Snake Spirits -- Winds and Waves -- The Degenerate and the Worn Shoe -- The Red, the Black, and the In-Between -- Smashing the Four Olds -- Cleaning Our Own Nest -- Picking Up the Pieces -- Rebels and Royalists -- Going to See the Great Helmsman -- Sending Off the Monsters -- Defending the Mountain Devil -- The Carpenter-Spy -- Reply from a Socialist-Roader -- On the Road -- Rocks Down the Well -- A Long March, by Hook or Crook -- Spring Festival Visitors -- The Capless Official -- Smears and Skirmishes -- Spring Buds -- Arrival of the Cadets -- The Grand Alliance -- Uncommon Laughter -- Victory Fish -- The First Martyr -- Summons by Subterfuge -- Storming the Enemy Stronghold -- Spies in the Marketplace -- Family Skeletons -- Playing with Fire -- The Obstinacy of Truth -- On the Run -- From Victors to Vanquished -- Living in Limbo -- Class Brothers Take Revenge -- The Radiance of the Setting Sun -- Three Loyalties and Four Boundless Loves -- Hostage for a Hobby -- The Twelve-Force Typhoon -- The Irretrievable Past -- The Way Out -- Postscript -- Appendix A. Biographical Notes -- Appendix B Glossary

Born Red is an artistically wrought personal account, written very much from inside the experience, of the years 1966-1969, when the author was a young teenager at middle school. It was in the middle schools that much of the fury of the Cultural Revolution and Red Guard movement was spent, and Gao was caught up in very dramatic events, which he recounts as he understood them at the time. Gao's father was a county political official who was in and out of trouble during those years, and the intense interplay between father and son and the differing perceptions and impact of the Cultural Revolution for the two generations provide both an unusual perspective and some extraordinary moving moments. He also makes deft use of traditional mythology and proverbial wisdom to link, sometimes ironically, past and present. Gao relates in vivid fashion how students-turned-Red Guards held mass rallies against 'capitalist roader' teachers and administrators, marching them through the streets to the accompaniment of chants and jeers and driving some of them to suicide. Eventually the students divided into two factions, and school and town became armed camps. Gao tells of the exhilaration that he and his comrades experienced at their initial victories, of their deepening disillusionment as they utter defeat as the tumultuous first phase of the Cultural Revolution came to a close. The portraits of the persons to whom Gao introduces us - classmates, teachers, family members - gain weight and density as the story unfolds, so that in the end we see how they all became victims of the dynamics of a mass movement out of control.
