

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910795674503321
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Titolo	America the Great and Its Self-Destruction : Viewing the Superpower Through the Lenses of Ancient Confucianism and Chaos Theory
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Algora Publishing, , 2021 ©2021
ISBN	1-62894-478-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (272 pages)
Disciplina	973
Soggetti	United States Civilization
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	The accelerating self-destruction of the United States cannot be hidden when the loss of productivity, loss of faith in government, enflamed identity politics and social fragmentation are constant and are clearly documented. Any national assessment should be grounded in facts, and Prof. Zhang provides a plethora of economic data as a baseline for discussion. The figures and graphs reveal many sides of America that we may generally miss. In addition, Chinese and other Asians familiar with ancient Confucianism have their own sources of wisdom and commentary to guide them in assessing how they and their neighbors think and behave. Here, a Chinese academic familiar with both worlds shares his impressions and his conclusions. Prof. Zhang juxtaposes the political, economic and cultural behavior of America with sparkling quotes from Confucius, Mencius, Xun Zi, as well as Western classical thinkers from Plato to Quesnay and Weber. The book gives us a new perspective on our country -- with insights as well from Chaos Theory.