

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910797423003321
Autore	Hofmann Reto <1975->
Titolo	The fascist effect : Japan and Italy, 1915-1952 // Reto Hofmann
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, New York ; ; London, [England] : , : Cornell University Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	1-5017-4848-3 0-8014-5636-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (219 p.)
Collana	Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University
Disciplina	327.5204509/04
Soggetti	Fascism - Japan - History Fascism - Italy - History Japan Relations Italy Italy Relations Japan
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. Mediator of Fascism: Shimoi Harukichi, 1915-1928 -- 2. The Mussolini Boom, 1928-1931 -- 3. The Clash of Fascisms, 1931-1937 -- 4. Imperial Convergence: The Italo- Ethiopian War and Japanese World-Order Thinking, 1935-1936 -- 5. Fascism in World History, 1937-1943 -- Epilogue: Fascism after the New World Order, 1943-1952 -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	During the interwar period, Japanese intellectuals, writers, activists, and politicians, although conscious of the many points of intersection between their politics and those of Mussolini, were ambivalent about the comparability of Imperial Japan and Fascist Italy. In The Fascist Effect, Reto Hofmann uncovers the ideological links that tied Japan to Italy, drawing on extensive materials from Japanese and Italian archives to shed light on the formation of fascist history and practice in Japan and beyond. Moving between personal experiences, diplomatic and cultural relations, and geopolitical considerations, Hofmann shows that interwar Japan found in fascism a resource to develop a new order at a time of capitalist crisis. Japanese thinkers and politicians debated

fascism as part of a wider effort to overcome a range of modern woes, including class conflict and moral degeneration, through measures that fostered national cohesion and social order. Hofmann demonstrates that fascism in Japan was neither a European import nor a domestic product; it was, rather, the result of a complex process of global transmission and reformulation. By focusing on how interwar Japanese understood fascism, Hofmann recuperates a historical debate that has been largely disregarded by historians, even though its extent reveals that fascism occupied a central position in the politics of interwar Japan. Far from being a vague term, as postwar historiography has so often claimed, for Japanese of all backgrounds who came of age from the 1920's to the 1940's, fascism conjured up a set of concrete associations, including nationalism, leadership, economics, and a drive toward empire and a new world order.

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