

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910806236203321
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Titolo	Return of the dragon : rising China and regional security // Denny Roy
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, [New York] : , : Columbia University Press, , 2013 ©2013
ISBN	0-231-52815-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vi, 279 pages)
Collana	Contemporary Asia in the World
Disciplina	355/.033051
Soggetti	World politics - 21st century National security - China China Foreign relations 21st century China International status
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- Chapter One. Introduction -- Chapter Two. A Chinese View of the World -- Chapter Three. U.S.-China Relations Under Hegemonic Transition -- Chapter Four. China's Military Rise -- Chapter Five. Japan and China -- Chapter Six. Pressure on China's Neighbors -- Chapter Seven. Mitigating Factors -- Chapter Eight. Persistent Risk of Conflict -- Chapter Nine. North Korea Bothersome Client State -- Chapter Ten. Taiwan in the PRC's Lengthening Shadow -- Chapter Eleven. The South China Sea Dispute -- Chapter Twelve. China and Global Security Issues -- Chapter Thirteen. Conclusion -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Despite China's effort to maintain peace with its neighbors, its military and economic growth poses an undeniable threat. Regional states must account for a more powerful potential adversary in China, and China has become more ambitious in its efforts to control its surroundings. Historical baggage has only aggravated the situation as China believes it is reclaiming its rightful place after a time of weakness and mistreatment, and other Asia-Pacific countries remember all too well their encounter with Chinese conflict and domination. Through a careful consideration of historical factors and raw data, Denny Roy examines the benefits and consequences of a more politically, economically, and

militarily potent China. Since China's intended sphere of influence encroaches on the autonomy of regional states, its attempts to increase its own security have weakened the security of its neighbors. Nevertheless, there is little incentive for Beijing to change a status quo that is mostly good for China, and the PRC thrives through its participation in the global economy and multilateral institutions. Even so, Beijing remains extremely sensitive to challenges to the Chinese Communist Party's legitimacy and believes it is entitled to exercise influence on its periphery. On these issues, nationalism trumps any reluctance to upset the international system. Diplomatic disputes regarding the islands in the South China Sea, as well as controversial relations with North Korea, continue to undermine Chinese promises of positive behavior. Roy's study reveals the dynamics defining this volatile region, in which governments pursue China as an economic partner yet fear Beijing's power to set the rules of engagement.
