

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810208203321
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Titolo	Arthritic Japan : the slow pace of economic reform // Edward J. Lincoln
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : Brookings Institution Press, c2001
ISBN	0-8157-9871-7
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (259 p.)
Disciplina	338.951
Soggetti	Japan Economic conditions 1989- Japan Economic policy 1989-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Title Page -- Copyright Page -- Foreword -- Table of Contents -- Chapter 1: Introduction -- Chapter 2: The Postwar Economic System -- Chapter 3: The Argument for Change -- Chapter 4: Vested Interests -- Chapter 5: Consistency with Society -- Chapter 6: Weak Outcomes -- Chapter 7: Implications for American Policy -- Notes -- Index.
Sommario/riassunto	In the late 1980s, Japan's strong economic performance put it on a the verge of becoming a major player in regional and global affairs. But nearly a decade of economic stagnation, a mounting of bad debts, and a continuing stream of scandals have tarnished the country's distinctive economic model. At the turn of the millennium, the Japanese economy remained mired in a pattern of stagnation. As this disappointing condition dragged on, the government pursued policies to restore economic health. Yet Japan has been slow to embrace the systemic reform on which a robust economic recovery depends. In Arthritic Japan, Edward J. Lincoln examines the causes and implications of this weak response. Concluding that Japan is unlikely to pursue the vigorous reform necessary for economic growth, Lincoln warns of serious consequences: a stumbling economy bedeviled by recession and financial crisis, eroding leadership in economic and security issues, a continued defensive trade posture, and a disgruntled population that could turn a more nationalistic stance in foreign policy.