

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910810752203321
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Titolo	The Chinese state's retreat from health : policy and the politics of retrenchment // Jane Duckett
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Abingdon, Oxon : , : Routledge, , 2011
ISBN	1-136-89358-X 1-283-59120-0 9786613903655 0-203-84072-0 1-136-89359-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (161 p.)
Collana	Routledge studies on China in transition ; ; 36
Disciplina	362.10951
Soggetti	Medical policy - China Medical care - China
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	Cover; The Chinese State's Retreat from Health: Policy and the politics of retrenchment; Copyright; Contents; Figures; Acknowledgements; Abbreviations and translated terms; 1 Understanding the Chinese state's retreat from health; 2 A state-run health system, 1950s-1980s; 3 The retreat from budgetary financing; 4 The retreat from rural risk protection; 5 The retreat from urban risk protection; 6 State retreat in a one-party system; Appendix: A note on China's health spending data; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Over the post-Mao period, the Chinese state has radically cut back its role in funding health services and insuring its citizens against the costs of ill health. Using an analytical framework drawn from studies of state retrenchment in industrialized democracies and in post-communist Eastern Europe, Jane Duckett argues that the state's retreat from health in China was not a simple consequence of economic policies and market reform. Just as important were the influences of health policies, reform era political institutions, communist party ideology, and bureaucratic stakeholders.

