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Nota di contenuto	Introduction. A new approach to understanding Chinese culture -- Watching the ancestors -- Mind-ing the ancestors -- Living with the ancestors: filial piety -- Two concepts of ritual and two understandings of 'Li' -- Challenging the master narrative 'Confucianism-as-Chinese culture' -- Conclusion and consequences.
Sommario/riassunto	This book is a new approach to how we in the West understand China and Chinese culture. It challenges the master narrative of Confucianism and shows that ancestor worship has underpinned Chinese culture in many influential and vital ways and provides a nuanced and more efficacious paradigm through which Chinese culture may be viewed. It is an exposition and analysis of Chinese ancestor worship and its correlations, especially filial piety and ritual, and it shows the intrinsic importance of ancestor worship to Chinese culture. By using a practice theory—ritual—and communication theory approach this work highlights the relationship between the rituals of ancestor worship and their meaning within Chinese culture. In emphasizing the efficacy of ritual to cultural meaning it also questions and compares the master narrative of Confucianism in its role as the prime cultural symbol and paradigm of Chinese culture. China and Chinese culture is conventionally understood by the West through the paradigm and its articulated discourse of Confucianism. In order to ameliorate and overcome the epistemological problematic of a cross-cultural understanding of China, a new approach to the understanding of China

and Chinese culture is proposed. The thesis approach is 'meta-disciplinary' and multi-viewed, and draws on a range of evidence and theories which focus on the problematic of 'cross-cultural understanding.'
