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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Preface -- Acknowledgements -- Contents -- List of tables -- Abbreviations and names of minorities in China -- Map 1. Distribution of Minority Nationalities and Languages in China -- Map 2 China: Autonomous regions and prefectures -- Chapter 1. Minorities and minority languages in China -- Chapter 2. The politics of minority language policy, 1949-2002 -- Chapter 3. The politics of the status of writing systems: Official, experimental, or unofficial -- Chapter 4. Choices of scripts and theories of writing systems: East vs. West -- Chapter 5. The politics of vernacular writing systems -- Chapter 6. The politics of traditional and reformed writing systems -- Chapter 7. Modernization: The politics and sociolinguistics of Chinese loanwords and minority language orthography -- Chapter 8. Conclusion -- Notes -- References -- Subject index -- Index of (officially recognized) minority nationalities and minority languages in China -- Index of names of influential persons
Sommario/riassunto	Minglang Zhou's highly erudite and well-researched volume on the policies concerning writing reforms for China's minorities since 1949 provides an original and well-reasoned summary of a complex process. It documents how different script reforms meet dramatically different fates according to local preferences, history, cross-border ties, and the vitality of previously-used scripts. It convincingly shows that no single variable is decisive in the success of a script, and that language planners' fixation with technical details is doomed to failure, without

careful coordination of extra-code factors. It also documents the little-known Sino-Soviet cooperation in the area of writing reforms. In a style accessible to both undergraduate and graduate students, Zhou's book is of interest to language planners, sinologists, applied linguists, writing theorists, and ethnologists.
