

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820912003321
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Titolo	Fateful transitions : how democracies manage rising powers, from the eve of World War I to China's ascendance / / Daniel M. Kliman
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : , : University of Pennsylvania Press, , 2015 ©2015
ISBN	0-8122-9029-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	vii, 234 p. ; ; 24 cm
Collana	Haney Foundation Series
Disciplina	327.09/04
Soggetti	International relations Security, International Great powers
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	Front matter -- Contents -- Abbreviations -- Chapter 1. Fateful Transitions -- Chapter 2. Power Shifts and Strategy -- Chapter 3. Pax Britannica Eclipsed -- Chapter 4. Germany Resurgent -- Chapter 5. Red Star Rising -- Chapter 6. Emerging Superpower -- Chapter 7. Neighboring Titan -- Chapter 8. Implications for the Twenty-First Century -- Appendix 1: Omitted Cases -- Appendix 2: Coding Checks and Balances -- Appendix 3: Measuring Freedom of the Press -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index -- Acknowledgments
Sommario/riassunto	As China emerges as a global force in the twenty-first century, questions of how existing great powers will navigate the geopolitical transition loom large. In Fateful Transitions, Daniel M. Kliman revisits historic power shifts to shed light on enduring patterns in international relations, demonstrating that the regime type of ascendant powers greatly influences global interactions. Since the late nineteenth century, the world's major democracies have tended to accommodate or conciliate ascendant democratic states. Certain attributes of democracy, such as a free press and domestic checks and balances, encourage trust during power shifts, whereas closed and autocratic regimes on the ascent tend to produce a cycle of suspicion, competition, and confrontation. Drawing on democratic peace theory

and power transition theory, Kliman compares Great Britain's embrace of U.S. ascendancy in the early twentieth century to its confrontational stance toward autocratic Germany and later U.S. mistrust of the Soviet Union. Within this geopolitical context, he evaluates the interactions between China and current great powers, the United States and Japan. Building on this analysis, Kliman offers new insights into the dynamics of power shifts and explores their implications for how today's established and emerging powers can successfully navigate fateful transitions.
