Record Nr.	UNINA9910825892103321	
Autore	Hayes James <1930->	
Titolo	The Hong Kong region, 1850-1911 : institutions and leadership in town and countryside / / by James Hayes	
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hong Kong, : Hong Kong University Press, 2012	
ISBN	1-283-57810-7 9786613890559 988-220-892-4	
Edizione	[Pbk. ed.]	
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (323 p.)	
Collana	Echoes : classics of Hong Kong culture and history	
Disciplina	307/.095125	
Soggetti	Social institutions - China - Hong Kong Hong Kong (China) Social conditions	
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese	
Formato	Materiale a stampa	
Livello bibliografico	Monografia	
Note generali	"With a new introduction".	
	Based on the author's thesis, University of London.	
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.	
Nota di contenuto	List of maps List of plates Introduction to the paperback edition Preface Introduction Abbreviations 1. A general account of the Hong Kong Region 2. The community of Cheung Chau 3. The community of Tai O 4. Shek Pik: a multilineage settlement of Cantonese farmers 5. Pui O: a linked group of Hakka and Punti farming villages 6. Ngau Tau Kok village: a newer, specialist settlement of Hakkas 7. Kowloon City and Kowloon Street: the community institutions of a Yamen, market, and rural subdistrict 8. Summary and discussion Postscript: the nature of the political situation in 1898, and its relevance for loacl leadership patterns.	
Sommario/riassunto	The Hong Kong Region, now being reprinted by Hong Kong University Press in its "Echoes" series, was a historical reconstruction of certain long-settled villages and sub-districts in the New Territories of Hong Kong, and, more specifically, an enquiry into the nature of local society in the late Qing period, 1850-1911. Since the book was published in 1977, and much new material has appeared in print in the intervening thirty-four years, a new Introduction is called for. It will describe the favorable circumstances in which I came to research its contents, re- state the book's main propositions, review them in the light of the	

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scholarly studies	which bear on these topics, and update and carry
them forward with	n the assistance of other authors and through my own
later research an	d publications.