

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910845477803321
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Titolo	Gifts to the Sad Country : Essays on the Chinese Diaspora // by Souchou Yao
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore : , : Springer Nature Singapore : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2024
ISBN	981-9715-98-9
Edizione	[1st ed. 2024.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (162 pages)
Disciplina	305.8951
Soggetti	Asia - Politics and government Emigration and immigration Ethnology - Asia Culture Asian Politics Diaspora Studies Asian Culture
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	1. Moving Story -- 2. Revolution Comes to Zhang Chun Village -- 3. The Postman -- 4. Grandfather's Two Households -- 5. Things That Bind -- 6. My Sister's Grave -- 7. Homebound -- 8. Revolutionary Romance -- 9. Soft Trauma.
Sommario/riassunto	The book is a study of an ethnic-Chinese family in Malaysia as it struggled with the upheavals in China during the Land Reform (1945-1953) and the Great Leap Forward (1958-1962). Based on fieldwork in Malaysia and in a village in Dabu County, Southern China, it tells a story of a family whose existence straddled two nations, two political systems. Emigration is shown to be both a positive experience and a source of despair. The study redefines the conventional narrative about the Chinese diaspora as economically driven and politically expedient; mobility, personal freedom and transnational journeying were a part of their cultural history. The book highlights the fact that Chinese homeland, even under communist rule, offered the people a means of identification under difficult circumstances. During the time of radical

reform, the diaspora adapted themselves to the conditions in the homeland, and for some China remained a place of longing and emotional attachment. Souchou Yao is a writer and a former staff member of the Department of Anthropology, the University of Sydney, Australia. Among his publications are *Singapore: The State and the culture of excess* (2007), *The Malayan Emergency: Essays on a small distant war* (2016), *The Shop on High Street: At home with petite capitalism* (2020), *Doing Lifework in Malaysia* (2020). He lives with his wife, the artist Simryn Gill, in Port Dickson, Malaysia, and Sydney, Australia.

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