

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910963411403321
Titolo	Mao's people : sixteen portraits of life in revolutionary China / / [compiled by] B. Michael Frolic
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, : Harvard University Press, 1980
ISBN	9780674037397 0674037391
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (292 pages) : map
Altri autori (Persone)	FrolicB. Michael <1937->
Disciplina	309.1/51/05
Soggetti	Chinese - China - Hong Kong China Social conditions 1949-1976 Case studies
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.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Acknowledgments -- Contents -- Introduction -- Thousand-Dollar Pig -- A Foot of Mud and a Pile of Shit -- Chairman Mao's Letter to Li -- Oil Man -- Down with Stinking Intellectuals -- Little Brother's Wedding -- Return to the Motherland -- Eating Pears in Fuzhou -- Frontier Town -- Kill the Chickens To Scare the Monkeys -- The One Whose Girlfriend Turned Him In -- Rubber Man -- The One Who Loved Dog Meat -- My Neighborhood -- The Apprentice -- Flying Kites on White Cloud Mountain -- Notes
Sommario/riassunto	"How do we apply Chairman Mao's Thought to get fat pigs?" Squad Leader Ho (who knew the most about pigs) replied that, according to Chairman Mao, one must investigate the problem fully from all sides, and then integrate practice and theory. Ho concluded that the reason for our skinny pigs had to be found in one of three areas: the relationship between the pigs and their natural environment (excluding man); the relationship between the cadres and the pigs; and the relationship among the pigs themselves. And so the city slickers, sent down to the countryside for political reeducation, set out to find the Thousand-Dollar Pig, much to the bemusement of the local peasants. The sixteen stories collected in this remarkable book give firsthand accounts of daily life in contemporary China. From 250 interviews conducted in Hong Kong between 1972 and 1976, Mr. Frolic has

created charming vignettes that show how individuals from all parts of China led their lives in the midst of rapid social change and political unrest. We hear about oil prospectors, rubber growers, and factory workers, Widow Wang and her sit-in to get a larger apartment, the thoroughly corrupt Man Who Loved Dog Meat, the young people who flew kites to protest antidemocratic tendencies. As fresh and original as the individual accounts are, common and timeless themes emerge: the sluggishness of an agrarian society in responding to modernization; the painful lack of resources in a poor and gigantic country; the constraints imposed on common people by the bureaucracy; the way in which individuals outwardly support the system and inwardly resist it; the limitations of heavy and conflicting doses of ideology in motivating individuals. But there are also recurrent motifs of economic and social progress: production rises, illiteracy declines, and socialist values have impact. A new China has emerged, though change is occurring far more slowly than its leaders had intended. Mao's People contains much new information on China both for the general reader and for specialists in the field. Above all, it is a completely engrossing and vivid glimpse into the ways of a nation we are only beginning to discover.

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