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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910967530703321 |
| Autore | Plating John D (John David), <1967-> |
| Titolo | The Hump : America's strategy for keeping China in World War II / / John D. Plating |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | College Station, : Texas A&M University Press, c2011 |
| ISBN | 1-60344-238-3 |
| Edizione | [1st ed.] |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (346 p.) |
| Collana | Williams-Ford Texas A&M University military history series ; ; no. 134 |
| Disciplina | 940.54/49730951 |
| Soggetti | World War, 1939-1945 - Aerial operations, American World War, 1939-1945 - China World War, 1939-1945 - Himalaya Mountains Airlift, Military - United States - History - 20th century Military doctrine - United States - History - 20th century United States Foreign relations 1933-1945 |
| 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 | From the Marco Polo Bridge to ABC Ferry Command -- Terrain, weather, pilots, and planes -- "Barnstorming" over the Hump -- The Hump and an ascendant CBI air strategy -- "Ten thousand tons by Christmas" -- The Hump goes to war -- The Hump becomes an airline -- The end of the Hump -- Notes. |
| Sommario/riassunto | Chronicling the most ambitious airlift in history . . . Carried out over arguably the world's most rugged terrain, in its most inhospitable weather system, and under the constant threat of enemy attack, the trans-Himalayan airlift of World War II delivered nearly 740,000 tons of cargo to China, making it possible for Chinese forces to wage war against Japan. This operation dwarfed the supply delivery by land over the Burma and Ledo Roads and represented the fullest expression of the U.S. government's commitment to China. In this groundbreaking work--the first concentrated historical study of the world's first sustained combat airlift operation--John D. Plating argues that the Hump airlift was initially undertaken to serve as a display of American support for its Chinese ally, which had been at war with Japan since 1937. However, by 1944, with the airlift's capability gaining |

momentum, American strategists shifted the purpose of air operations to focus on supplying American forces in China in preparation for the U.S.'s final assault on Japan. From the standpoint of war materiel, the airlift was the precondition that made possible all other allied military action in the China-Burma-India theater, where Allied troops were most commonly inserted, supplied, and extracted by air. Drawing on extensive research that includes Chinese and Japanese archives, Plating tells a spellbinding story in a context that relates it to the larger movements of the war and reveals its significance in terms of the development of military air power. The Hump demonstrates the operation's far-reaching legacy as it became the example and prototype of the Berlin Airlift, the first air battle of the Cold War. The Hump operation also bore significantly on the initial moves of the Chinese Civil War, when Air Transport Command aircraft moved entire armies of Nationalist troops hundreds of miles in mere days in order to prevent Communist forces from being the ones to accept the Japanese surrender.
