1. Record Nr. UNINA9910984670003321 Lee Sujin (Professor of Pacific and Asia studies) Autore Titolo Wombs of empire: population discourses and biopolitics in modern Japan / / Sujin Lee Pubbl/distr/stampa Stanford, California, : Stanford University Press, [2023] ©2023 **ISBN** 9781503637016 1503637018 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (262 pages) Disciplina 304.6320952 Fertility, Human - Political aspects - Japan - History - 20th century Soggetti Birth control - Political aspects - Japan - History - 20th century Motherhood - Political aspects - Japan - History - 20th century Biopolitics - Japan - History - 20th century Japan Population policy Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Intro -- Title Page -- Copyright -- Dedication -- Contents -- List of Figures -- Acknowledgments -- A Note on Romanization and Names -- Introduction. Population: A Discursive Site of En-gendering Life --One. The Population Problem and Utopian Remedies -- Two. Voluntary Motherhood: The Feminist Politics of Birth Control -- Three. Scientific and Imperialist Solutions to Overpopulation -- Four. Building a Biopolitical State: The Mobilization of Health for Total War -- Five. "Fertile Womb Battalion": The Gender and Racial Politics of Motherhood -- Epilogue. The Continued Politics of the "Population Problem" --Glossary -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index. "Japan's contemporary struggle with low fertility rates is a well-known Sommario/riassunto issue, as are the country's efforts to bolster their population in order to address attendant socio-economic challenges. However, though this anxiety about and discourse around population is thought of as relatively recent phenomenon, government and medical intervention in reproduction and fertility are hardly new in Japan. The "population

problem (jinko mondai)" became a buzzword in the country over a

century ago, in the 1910s, with a growing call among Japanese social scientists and social reformers to solve what were seen as existential demographic issues. In this book, Sujin Lee traces the trajectory of population discourses in Interwar and Wartime Japan, and positions them as a critical site where competing visions of modernity came into tension. Lee destabilizes the essentialized notions of motherhood and population by dissecting gender norms, modern knowledge, and government practices, each of which played a crucial role in valorizing, regulating, and mobilizing women's maternal bodies and responsibilities in the name of population governance. Bringing a feminist perspective and Foucauldian theory to bear on the history of Japan's wartime scientific fascism, Lee shows how anxieties over demographics have undergirded justifications for ethno-nationalism and racism, colonialism and imperialism, and gender segregation for much of Japan's modern history"--