

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996247910203316
Autore	Bray Francesca
Titolo	Technology and Gender : Fabrics of Power in Late Imperial China // Francesca Bray
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley ; ; Los Angeles, California : , : University of California Press, , [1997] ©1997
ISBN	0-585-10433-6 0-520-91900-9
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : illustrations
Disciplina	305.30951
Soggetti	Sex role - China - History Women - China - Social conditions Women - Social conditions China Social conditions 1644-1912 China Social conditions 960-1644
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"A Philip E. Lilienthal book."
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Illustrations and Table -- Chinese Dynasties -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- 1. House Form and Meaning -- 2. Encoding Patriarchy -- 3. The Text of the Chinese House -- 4. Fabrics of Power -- 5. Economic Changing Expansion and Divisions of Labor -- 6. Women's Work and Women's Place -- 7. Medical History and Gender History -- 8. Reproductive Medicine and the Dual Nature of Fertility -- 9. Reproductive Hierarchies -- Conclusion -- Glossary of Technical Terms -- References Cited -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this feminist history of eight centuries of private life in China, Francesca Bray inserts women into the history of technology and adds technology to the history of women. Bray takes issue with the Orientalist image that traditional Chinese women were imprisoned in the inner quarters, deprived of freedom and dignity, and so physically and morally deformed by footbinding and the tyrannies of patriarchy that they were incapable of productive work. She proposes a concept of

gynotechnics, a set of everyday technologies that define women's roles, as a creative new way to explore how societies translate moral and social principles into a web of material forms and bodily practices. Bray examines three different aspects of domestic life in China, tracing their developments from 1000 to 1800 A.D. She begins with the shell of domesticity, the house, focusing on how domestic space embodied hierarchies of gender. She follows the shift in the textile industry from domestic production to commercial production. Despite increasing emphasis on women's reproductive roles, she argues, this cannot be reduced to childbearing. Female hierarchies within the family reinforced the power of wives, whose responsibilities included ritual activities and financial management as well as the education of children.

---