

1. Record Nr.	UNISA996247995603316
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Titolo	The Power of Everyday Politics : How Vietnamese Peasants Transformed National Policy // Benedict J. Tria Kerkvliet
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ithaca, NY : , : Cornell University Press, , [2018] ©2005
ISBN	1-5017-2201-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xii, 305 p. ) : ill. ;
Disciplina	338.1/8597
Soggetti	Peasants - Vietnam Agriculture and state - Vietnam Collectivization of agriculture - Vietnam
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 (p. 277-297) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Tables and Illustrations -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Theorizing Everyday Politics in Collective Farming -- 3. Building on Wobbly Foundations, 1955-1961 -- 4. Coping and Shoring Up, 1961-1974 -- 5. Collapsing from Within, 1974-1981 -- 6. Dismantling Collective Farming, Expanding the Family Farm, 1981-1990 -- 7. Conclusion -- Appendix 1. Tables and graph -- Appendix 2. Distribution to Collective Cooperative Members -- Vietnamese Glossary -- Selected Places and Terms -- Abbreviations -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Ordinary people's everyday political behavior can have a huge impact on national policy: that is the central conclusion of this book on Vietnam. In telling the story of collectivized agriculture in that country, Benedict J. Tria Kerkvliet uncovers a history of local resistance to national policy and gives a voice to the villagers who effected change. Not through open opposition but through their everyday political behavior, villagers individually and in small, unorganized groups undermined collective farming and frustrated authorities' efforts to correct the problems. The Power of Everyday Politics is an authoritative account, based on extensive research in Vietnam's National Archives and in the Red River Delta countryside, of the formation of collective

farms in northern Vietnam in the late 1950's, their enlargement during wartime in the 1960's and 1970's, and their collapse in the 1980's. As Kerkvliet shows, the Vietnamese government eventually terminated the system, but not for ideological reasons. Rather, collectivization had become hopelessly compromised and was ultimately destroyed largely by the activities of villagers. Decollectivization began locally among villagers themselves; national policy merely followed. The power of everyday politics is not unique to Vietnam, Kerkvliet asserts. He advances a theory explaining how everyday activities that do not conform to the behavior required by authorities may carry considerable political weight.

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