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Nota di contenuto Introduction : an anthropology of science making and policymaking --

History: the "ideology" before the "science" -- A Chinese Marxian statistics of population -- A sinified cybernetics of population -- A Chinese Marxian humanism of population -- The scientific revolution in Chengdu -- Ally recruitment in Beijing -- Scientific policymaking in Zhongnanhai -- Conclusion: why an epistemic approach matters.

Sommario/riassunto "China's one-child rule is unassailably one of the most controversial

social policies of all time. In the first book of its kind, Susan

Greenhalgh draws on twenty years of research into China's population politics to explain how the leaders of a nation of one billion decided to limit all couples to one child. Focusing on the historic period 1978-80, when China was reentering the global capitalist system after decades of

self-imposed isolation, Greenhalph documents the extraordinary

manner in which a handful of leading aerospace engineers hijacked the population policymaking process and formulated a strategy that treated people like missiles. Just One Child situates these science- and policy making practices in their broader contexts -- the scientization and statisticalization of socio-political life -- and provides the most detailed and incisive account yet of the origins of the one-child policy. In examining the larger issues relating to the interconnections between science and politics, this groundbreaking study develops a new, epistemic approach to the study of public policy and shows how, in China, scientific policymaking led directly to social suffering on a vast scale while giving birth to a technoscientific state."--Book cover.