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institutions: Britain and China, wheat versus rice; 4. Geography: town versus countryside, urbanising Great Britain and rural China  
5. Labour: scarcity and abundance  
6. Factor endowments: labour-saving Britain versus labour-absorbing China; 7. High wages and low wages: stimuli and traps?; 8. Labour-extensive and labour-intensive routes to growth?; 9. Human capital: labour and its skills; 10. Human capital: labour and discipline; 11. Consumption; 12. Accumulation, income and wealth; 13. Primitive accumulation: bullion and slaves; 14. Intercontinental trade; 15. Globalisation and Great Divergence: How the Third World came into existence; 16. Ghost acreages  
17. Innovation provides the key rather than accumulation or ghost acreage  
18. Innovation: technology and science; 19. A seriously underestimated factor: enhanced productivity because of institutional and organisational innovation; 20. Ultimate causes: institutions; 21. Markets and property rights; 22. Institutions: markets and varieties of pre-industrial capitalism; 23. Wage labour and world-system: Why it does not make sense to call Qing China capitalist and why capitalism's origins should be considered uniquely Western; 24. Markets: sizes and characteristics  
25. The institution of institutions: The role of the state, in particular that of Britain  
26. Was industrialising Britain a developmental state?; 27. The European state system and the development of civil society: the non-monopolisation of the sources of social power; 28. Culture and growth: Western cultural exceptionalism and how to measure it; 29. Culture does make a difference. But how can one convincingly prove that?; Why not China?; A world of striking differences; Concluding comments; 1. Geography; 2. Labour and consumption; 3. Accumulation; 4. Specialisation and exchange; 5. Innovation  
6. Institutions: markets, property rights and states

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## Sommario/riassunto

One of the biggest debates in economic history deals with the Great Divergence. How can we explain that at a certain moment in time (the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries) a certain part of the world (the West) escaped from general poverty and became much richer than it had ever been before and than the rest of the world? Many prominent scholars discussed this question and came up with many different answers. This book provides a systematic analysis of the most important of those answers by means of an analysis of possible explanations in terms of natural resources, labour, capital, the divi

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