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Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Chapter 1: Theoretical Premises and Historical Method -- Chapter 2: Early Modern Spain -- Chapter 3: Rise and Decline of the Dutch Economic Supremacy -- Chapter 4: The Perfection of an Expansive Reinvestment System in England -- Chapter 5: The Story of England (cont.) -- Chapter 6: The Case of the United States -- Chapter 7: The Story of the U.S. Economy (cont.).
Sommario/riassunto	This book revisits the historically different paths to economic development that Spain, the Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States followed at different time periods since the early modern period. Addressing the questions of how economic growth came about in these four countries and why sustained economic growth was achieved only by the two latter economic powers - Great Britain and the United States, it clearly highlights the long-term economic impact of the individual economic systems each country had developed. This discussion draws on two important variables in economic systems: whether its primary activity is agriculture, commerce, or manufacturing,

and whether its productive system expands or simply reproduces. From this interpretive framework, the book suggests that the existing literature has not yet paid sufficient attention to the enduring impact on a nation's long-term economic performance of their differing economic systems - simple agricultural reproduction system (Spain), expansive commercial reinvestment system (the Netherlands), and expansive industrial reproduction system (Great Britain and the United States). The book also demonstrates why sustained economic growth was viable only within an expansive industrial reproduction system, and what conditions Great Britain and the United States had to fulfill to create such an economic system in their specific historical contexts. It concludes by reflecting on the policy implications of the findings on current discussions concerning economic development within the global economy.
