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| 1. Record Nr. | UNINA9910452361203321 |
| Autore | Riello Giorgio |
| Titolo | Cotton : the fabric that made the modern world / / Giorgio Riello [[electronic resource]] |
| Pubbl/distr/stampa | Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2013 |
| ISBN | 1-107-32656-7 1-107-23393-3 1-107-33632-5 1-107-33466-7 0-511-70609-X 1-107-33230-3 1-107-33300-8 1-299-40322-0 1-107-33549-3 |
| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (xxvii, 407 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) |
| Disciplina | 338.4/767721 |
| Soggetti | Cotton textile industry - History Cotton trade - History Cotton - History |
| Lingua di pubblicazione | Inglese |
| Formato | Materiale a stampa |
| Livello bibliografico | Monografia |
| Note generali | Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). |
| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Introduction: Global cotton and global history -- Part I. The first cotton revolution : a centrifugal system, circa 1000-1500. Selling to the world : India and the old cotton system ; 'Wool growing on wild trees' : the global reach of cotton ; The world's best : cotton manufacturing and the advantage of India -- Part II. Learning and connecting : making cottons global, circa 1500-1750. The Indian apprenticeship : Europeans trading in Indian cottons ; New consuming habits : how cottons entered European houses and wardrobes ; From Asia to America : cottons in the Atlantic world ; Learning and substituting : printing cotton textiles in Europe -- Part III. The second cotton revolution : a centripetal system, circa 1750-2000. Cotton, slavery and plantations in the New World ; Competing with India : cotton and |

European industrialism ; 'The wolf in sheep's clothing' : the potential of cotton ; Global outcomes : the West and the new cotton system ; Conclusion: From system to system; from divergence to convergence.

Sommario/riassunto

Today's world textile and garment trade is valued at a staggering \$425 billion. We are told that under the pressure of increasing globalisation, it is India and China that are the new world manufacturing powerhouses. However, this is not a new phenomenon: until the industrial revolution, Asia manufactured great quantities of colourful printed cottons that were sold to places as far afield as Japan, West Africa and Europe. Cotton explores this earlier globalised economy and its transformation after 1750 as cotton led the way in the industrialisation of Europe. By the early nineteenth century, India, China and the Ottoman Empire switched from world producers to buyers of European cotton textiles, a position that they retained for over two hundred years. This is a fascinating and insightful story which ranges from Asian and European technologies and African slavery to cotton plantations in the Americas and consumer desires across the globe.
