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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Table of Contents -- Introduction -- Part I: The Christian Decline -- Chapter 1 Medieval Christian Europe in Stasis -- Part II: The Islamic Ascendency -- Chapter 2 The Muslims' Medieval "Trade Explosion" -- Chapter 3 Islamic "Free Market" Doctrine Pragmatically Applied -- Chapter 4 The Fruition of "Commercial Capitalism" in Ftimid Egypt -- Part III: Islam and the Christian Revival -- Chapter 5 Imperatives of Trade and the Transformation of Europe -- Chapter 6 Medieval Europe´s Transformation: "The Triumph Of Ideas" -- Backmatter
Sommario/riassunto	Presented in six principal analytic chapters with supporting appendices, this book explores the role of Islam in precipitating Europe's twelfth century commercial renaissance. Employing the classic analytic techniques of economics, Gene Heck determines that medieval Europe's feudal interregnum was largely caused by indigenous governmental business regulation and not by shifts in international trade patterns. He then proceeds by demonstrating how Islamic economic precepts provided the ideological rationales that empowered medieval Europe to

escape its three-centuries-long experiment in "Dark Age economics" - in the process, providing the West with its archetypic tools of capitalism. While treatises such as Maxime Rodinson's excellent book, *Islam and Capitalism*, document the capitalistic nature of the Islamic economic system, in applying modern economic method to medieval orientalist historiography, this work is unique in capturing both the evolution and the impact of the system's role in forging medieval history.

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