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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Figures -- List of Tables -- Contributors -- 1. Law and Long- Term Economic Change: An Editorial Introduction -- 2. The Evolution of Law: Political Foundations of Private Law in Medieval Europe and Japan -- 3. Law and Economy in Traditional China: A "Legal Origin" Perspective on the Great Divergence -- 4. Property Rights, Land, and Law in Imperial China -- 5. Contracts, Property, and Litigation: Intermediation and Adjudication in the Huizhou Region (Anhui) in Sixteenth- Century China -- 6. Law and Economic Change in India, 1600– 1900 -- 7. Land and Law in Colonial India -- 8. The Political Economy of Law and Economic Development in Islamic History -- 9. Islamic Legal Institutions of Contracts and Courts: A Comparative Perspective -- 10. Bankruptcy Laws: East versus West -- 11. Debt Litigation in Medieval Holland, 1200– 1350 -- 12. The Resolution of Commercial Conflicts in Bruges, Antwerp, and Amsterdam (1250– 1650) -- 13. The Portuguese Judicial System in the Nineteenth Century: Rules, Risks, and Judges -- 14. The Evolution of Self- and State Regulation of the London Stock Exchange, 1688– 1878 -- 15. British Legal Institutions and Transaction Costs in the Early Transport Revolution -- Index

Recently, a growing body of work on "law and finance" and "legal origins" has highlighted the role of formal legal institutions in shaping financial institutions. However, these writings have focused largely on Europe, neglecting important non-Western traditions that prevail in a large part of the world. *Law and Long-Term Economic Change* brings together a group of leading scholars from economics, economic history, law, and area studies to develop a unique, global and, long-term perspective on the linkage between law and economic change. Covering the regions of Western Europe, East and South Asia, and the Middle East, the chapters explore major themes regarding the nature and evolution of different legal regimes; their relationship with the state or organized religion; the definition and interpretation of ownership and property rights; the functioning of courts, and other mechanisms for dispute resolution and contract enforcement; and the complex dynamics of legal transplantations through processes such as colonization. The text makes clear that the development of legal traditions and institutions—as embodiments of cultural values and norms—exerts a strong effect on long-term economic change. And it demonstrates that a good understanding of legal origins around the world enriches any debate about Great Divergence in the early modern era, as well as development and underdevelopment in 19th-20th century Eurasia.
