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The World of South Asian Textiles, 1500-1850 / Giorgio Riello and Tirthankar Roy -- Southeast Asian Consumption of Indian and British Cotton Cloth, 1600–1850 / Anthony Reid -- Cloths of a New Fashion: Indian Ocean Networks of Exchange and Cloth Zones of Contact in Africa and India in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries / Pedro Machado -- English versus Indian Cotton Textiles: The Impact of Imports on Cotton Textile Production in West Africa / Joseph E. Inikori -- British Exports of Raw Cotton from India to China during the Late Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries / H. V. Bowen -- The Resurgence of Intra-Asian Trade, 1800–1850 / Kaoru Sugihara -- The Textile Industry and the Economy of South India, 1500-1800 / David Washbrook -- Four Centuries of Decline? Understanding the Changing Structure of the South Indian Textile Industry / Ian C. Wendt -- From Market-Determined to Coercion-Based: Textile Manufacturing in Eighteenth-Century Bengal / Om Prakash -- The Political Economy of Textiles in Western India: Weavers, Merchants and the Transition to a Colonial Economy / Lakshmi Subramanian -- Competition and Control

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Sommario/riassunto

Cloth has always been the most global of all traded commodities. It is an illuminating example of the circulation of goods, skills, knowledge and capital across wide geographic spaces. South Asia has been central to the making of these global exchanges over time. This volume presents innovative research that explores the dynamic ways in which diverse textile production and trade regions generated the 'first globalization'. A series of experts connect this global commodity with the dramatic political and economic transformations that characterised the Indian Ocean in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Collectively, the essays transform our understanding of the contribution of South Asian cloth to the making of the modern world economy.