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Sommario/riassunto	In 2004, a conference was held at King's College London to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Charles Boxer. The theme of the conference was the development of the culturally mixed 'Portuguese' societies in Asia, Africa and America, which reflected Boxer's own interest in the social history of Portugal's overseas empire. Although the conference papers were published by Bristol University, this volume is long out of print and the outstanding quality of many of the contributions has made it necessary for this collection to be republished. Portuguese overseas expansion over a period of fiv