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| Nota di contenuto | Introduction -- The Bubble Act and the First Corporate Economy -- 'Mr Morice is said to appear at the head': The Bubble Act and an Aborted Joint-Stock Slave-Trading Company -- 'That ever-memorable year of epidemical infatuation': Incorporation, the Jamaica Mines Company, and the Bubble Act of 1720 -- Pamphlet Poetry and the South Sea Bubble -- Decoding the Bubble: Popular Magic, Financial Deception, and Eliza Haywood's Memoirs of a Certain Island Adjacent to Utopia -- Consequences Unintended: The Bubble Act and American Independence -- Capitalism by Generalists: The Governance of the Ayr Bank and the Emergence of Professionalism in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Scottish Banking -- Royal Charters, Royal Power, and the Business of Empire -- Babbage's Age of Speculation: Calculating the Value of Life After the Repeal of the Bubble Act -- The Repeal of the Bubble Act and the Debate Between the Currency School and the Banking School -- Agency Houses in Bengal and the Indigo Bubble -- Epilogue. |
| Sommario/riassunto | This book reassesses the actual effects of the Bubble Act, still popularly associated with the bursting of the South Sea Bubble. The book builds on the foundational work of Ron Harris to discuss the act's effect on corporate governance, literary culture, colonial law, and the Industrial Revolution. The Bubble Act was deemed an empty letter within England |

itself as it was rarely used in legal proceedings. Several chapters consider whether this was the case outside England, from Scotland to the Americas, India, and Africa. Others assess the impact of the act, both on literary culture and in the history of economic thought. The act has been conceptualized as a brake on economic development or of little consequence. This edited collection offers a timely reassessment of the Bubble Act and its legacy.
