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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Acknowledgements -- Contents -- List of Contributors -- Transliteration and Orthography -- Abbreviations -- Introduction to the Second Volume -- Preludes -- 1 Globalization beyond the Silk Road: Writing Global History of Ancient Economies -- 2 Local, Regional, and Imperial Economies -- Part I: Actors -- Introduction -- 3 Mediterranean, Near East, and Iran 63 Lara Fabian and Eli J. S. Weaverdyck -- 3.A Economic Actors in the Hellenistic and Roman Empires: The Mediterranean and Southwest Asia -- 3.B Economic Actors in the Arsakid Empire -- 4 Economic Actors under the Greek Kingdoms of Central Asia to the Kushan Empire -- 5 Territorial and Transterritorial Economic Actors in Early Historic South Asia -- 6 Economic Actors in Early Imperial China -- Excursus -- 7 Constituting Local and Imperial Landscapes -- Part II: Tools -- Introduction -- 8 Mediterranean, Near East, and Iran -- 8.A Tools of Economic Activity in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds: Empires and Coordination -- 8.B Tools of Economic Activity in the Arsakid Empire -- 9 Tools of Economic Activity from the Greek Kingdoms of Central Asia to the

Kushan Empire -- 10 Tools of Economic Connectivity in Early Historic South Asia -- 11 Tools of Economic Activity in Early Imperial China -- Part III: Processes -- Introduction -- 12 Mediterranean, Near East, and Iran -- 12.A Economic Dynamics in the Hellenistic Empires -- 12.B Economic Dynamics in the Arsakid Empire -- 12.C Institutions and Economic Relations in the Roman Empire: Consumption, Supply, and Coordination -- 13 Economic Development under the Greek Kingdoms of Central Asia to the Kushan Empire: Empire, Migration, and Monasteries -- 14 Political, Corporate, and Ritual Economic Processes of Early Historic South Asia -- 15 Structures and Dynamics of the Early Imperial Chinese Economy -- Index

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### Sommario/riassunto

The second volume of the Handbook describes different extractive economies in the world regions that have been outlined in the first volume. A wide range of economic actors - from kings and armies to cities and producers - are discussed within different imperial settings as well as the tools, which enabled and constrained economic outcomes. A central focus are nodes of consumption that are visible in the archaeological and textual records of royal capitals, cities, religious centers, and armies that were stationed, in some cases permanently, in imperial frontier zones. Complementary to the multipolar concentrations of consumption are the fiscal-tributary structures of the empires vis-à-vis other institutions that had the capacity to extract, mobilize, and concentrate resources and wealth. Larger volumes of state-issued coinage in various metals show the new role of coinage in taxation, local economic activities, and social practices, even where textual evidence is absent. Given the overwhelming importance of agriculture, the volume also analyses forms of agrarian development, especially around cities and in imperial frontier zones. Special consideration is given to road- and water-management systems for which there is now sufficient archaeological and documentary evidence to enable cross-disciplinary comparative research.

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