1. Record Nr. UNINA9910784784603321

Titolo Strategic factors in nineteenth century American economic history

[[electronic resource]]: a volume to honor Robert W. Fogel / / edited

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Pubbl/distr/stampa Chicago,: University of Chicago Press, c1992

ISBN 1-281-43100-1

9786611431006 0-226-30135-4

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (504 p.)

Collana National Bureau of Economic Research conference report

Conference report (National Bureau of Economic Research)

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Disciplina 330.973/05

Soggetti Labor market - United States - History - 20th century

Capital market - United States - History - 20th century

United States Economic conditions Congresses

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Papers presented at a conference held Mar. 2-3, 1991 in Cambridge,

Mass.

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and indexes.

"The writings of Robert W. Fogel": p. 471-474.

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Sommario/riassunto

Offering new research on strategic factors in the development of the nineteenth century American economy-labor, capital, and political structure-the contributors to this volume employ a methodology innovated by Robert W. Fogel, one of the leading pioneers of the "new economic history." Fogel's work is distinguished by the application of economic theory and large-scale quantitative evidence to longstanding historical questions. These sixteen essays reveal, by example. the continuing vitality of Fogel's approach. The authors use an astonishing variety of data, including genealogies, the U.S. federal population census manuscripts, manumission and probate records. firm accounts, farmers' account books, and slave narratives, to address collectively market integration and its impact on the lives of Americans. The evolution of markets in agricultural and manufacturing labor is considered first: that concerning capital and credit follows. The demography of free and slave populations is the subject of the third section, and the final group of papers examines the extra-market institutions of governments and unions.