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Private Trade and Monopoly Structures: The East India Companies and the Commodity Trade to Europe in the Eighteenth Century The Size of the East India Company Trade; Company Organization; Regulations on Private Trade; The China Trade and Specific Commodities; Private Trade and Company Flexibility; Conclusion; Notes; Acknowledgments; References; Appendix: European East India company private trade allowances; General Regulations; Examples of Actual Permissions on Specific Company Ships; A Closed Elite? Bristol's Society of Merchant Venturers and the Abolition of Slave Trading; Data Sources

Local Politics and Elite Closure The Fragmented Network of the Slave Traders; Alternative Sources of Cohesion; Success of the Abolitionist Campaign; Conclusion; Notes; Acknowledgments; References; Own, Rent, or Rent-Seek?: Vertical Integration in Historical Chartered Monopolies; The Companies and Their Hire versus Own Patterns; Competitive Trading Environments; Non-Rent-Seeking Explanations; Asset Specificity and Specific Relationships; Relationship-Specific Investments before Departure; Relationship-Specific Investments after Departure; Costly Monitoring; Capacity Utilization

Shipowners and Corporate Control

Sommario/riassunto

Chartered companies, the organizational precursors to modern multinationals, acted as the primary vehicles behind the expansion of European political and economic hegemony, and were thus central to the creation of modern global political and economic institutions, and international trade and relations. This volume covers the evolution of the chartered company form, beginning with one of the earliest known chartered organizations, Casa di San Giorgio, founded in 1407. Also included are the Merchant Adventurers, the Levant Company, the English and Dutch East India Companies, Royal African Company, and Hudson's Bay Company. Collectively, the contributions employ comparative methods, archival research, case studies, statistical analyses, computational models, network analyses, and new theoretical conceptualizations to map out the complex interactions that took place within the companies between state and commercial actors in and across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas interactions that renegotiated and ultimately institutionalized what were to become modern conceptions of public and private and defined many of the political and economic structures of capitalism.
