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Nota di contenuto	Chapter 01: Cotton, coal, colonialism: Re-thinking the fossil economy in the geopolitical context of British imperialism -- Chapter 02: Colonial Staples: Steam Imperialism in Britain's Carbon Frontier of Victoria -- Chapter 03: Steam-powered but Wood-fired: Coal and Renewable Energy in Colonial Economies -- Chapter 04: Awabakal and Nikkin: Reconnecting histories of first peoples, coal and colonists -- Chapter 05: Carbon Old and New: The Australian Agricultural Company, Coal, Wood and the complexities of energy transition in New South

Sommario/riassunto

“An exciting addition to energy history, this collection provocatively redirects attention to the complex relationship between colonialism and fossil fuels. Through careful studies of Australian colonial and imperial appetites for coal power, the collection offers insights into the uneven development of energy transitions and expands our view of fossil capitalism to account for Indigenous knowledge, dispossession, and resistance. It provides essential new texture for histories of carbon frontiers in Australia and across the modern world.” —Jarrod Hore, Co-Director of the New Earth Histories Research Program and Postdoctoral Fellow, University of New South Wales

This book untangles the connections between British industrialization and colonial expansion in the late-eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The addition of fossil fuels to the energy mix in this period drove overwhelming social and economic change in Britain, the north-east United States, and Europe, but it also had important and uneven consequences within a range of Euro-American colonies. Opening a new field of inquiry into fossil fuel-powered technologies and their critical role in colonial expansion, this book demonstrates how carbon-based economies dramatically accelerated the annexing of foreign lands and the extraction of their resources. Yet, while the use of coal on a commercial scale from the late 1700s powered an explosion of growth in manufacturing between 1760 and 1840 and these years coincided with the incursion and violence on colonial frontiers, the peripheries tended to rely on wood where they could. This intensification of animal and timber power complicated the nationalist narratives of coal-fired industrialization and economic development. A history of the meanings and ideas around carbon, fossil fuels, and their bearing within colonial expansion is increasingly relevant as rapid changes to climate bring into focus the legacy of carbonization in dispossession, sustainability, environmental, labor, and atmospheric relational histories. Liz Conor is an ARC Future Fellow and Associate Professor in History at La Trobe University, Australia. Former editor of the *Aboriginal History Journal*, she has published extensively on colonial and modern visual and print history, including her most recent book, *Skin Deep: Settler Impressions of Aboriginal Women* (2016).

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