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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [163]-236) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Perspectives on the origins of merchant capitalism in Europe -- Orthodox Marxism -- Brennerism (or the Brenner approach) -- The modernization theory -- World-systems analysis -- The inter-city-state system of the Middle Ages -- Tentative conclusions -- The political economies of China and Europe compared -- The Chinese socioeconomic revolution during the Sung dynasty (circa 900-1280) -- China and the Mongols -- Ming China and Europe : divergent paths -- Conclusions vis-a-vis European capitalism -- The political economies of South Asia and Europe compared -- Trade and commodity flows in the South Asian region -- States and state structures in South Asia -- The strategies of elites in South Asia and Europe -- The impact of the perilous frontier -- Conclusions -- The political economies of Western Europe and Northern Africa compared -- Northern Africa and the Sudanic states (circa 1200-1500) -- North African cities, states, and the balance of power in the Mediterranean -- Conclusions -- Conclusion : Was the Western-European city-state in the Middle Ages a European miracle?
Sommario/riassunto	In this study, Eric Mielants provides a novel interdisciplinary interpretation of the origins of modernity and capitalism in particular.

He argues that contrary to popular thinking, the Rise of the West should not be analyzed in terms of the Industrial Revolution or the colonization of the New World, but viewed from long-term developments that occurred in the Middle Ages. A fascinating overview of different civilizations in East Asia, South Asia, and Northwestern Africa is provided and systematically compared and contrasted with Western Europe. This book addresses some of the major debate
