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Nota di contenuto	Introduction : why Columbus sailed south to the Indies -- Machina mundi : the moral authority of place in the early transatlantic encounter -- Columbus and the open geography of the ancients -- The meaning of India in pre-Columbian Europe -- From place to colonialism in the Aristotelian tradition -- En la parte del sol : Iberia's invention of the Afro-Indian tropics, 1434-1494 -- Between Cathay and a hot place : reorienting the Asia-America debate -- The tropics of empire in Columbus's Diario.