

Contents

<i>List of tables</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Preface and acknowledgements</i>	xi
<i>Map: Hobo-Dyer projection of the world</i>	xiv
1 Countering the Eurocentric myth of the pristine West: discovering the oriental West	1
I The East as an early developer: the East discovers and leads the world through oriental globalisation, 500–1800	
2 Islamic and African pioneers: building the Bridge of the World and the global economy in the Afro-Asian age of discovery, 500–1500	29
3 Chinese pioneers: the first industrial miracle and the myth of Chinese isolationism, c. 1000–1800	50
4 The East remains dominant: the twin myths of oriental despotism and isolationism in India, South-east Asia and Japan, 1400–1800	74
II The West was last: oriental globalisation and the invention of Christendom, 500–1498	
5 Inventing Christendom and the Eastern origins of European feudalism, c. 500–1000	99
6 The myth of the Italian pioneer, 1000–1492	116
7 The myth of the Vasco da Gama epoch, 1498–c. 1800	134

viii CONTENTS

III The West as a late developer and the advantages of backwardness: oriental globalisation and the reconstruction of Western Europe as the advanced West, 1492–1850		
8	The myth of 1492 and the impossibility of America: the Afro-Asian contribution to the catch up of the West, 1492–c. 1700	161
9	The Chinese origins of British industrialisation: Britain as a derivative late developer, 1700–1846	190
10	Constructing European racist identity and the invention of the world, 1700–1850: the imperial civilising mission as a moral vocation	219
11	The dark side of British industrialisation and the myth of <i>laissez-faire</i> : war, racist imperialism and the Afro-Asian origins of industrialisation	243
IV Conclusion: the oriental West versus the Eurocentric myth of the West		
12	The twin myths of the rational Western liberal-democratic state and the great divide between East and West, 1500–1900	283
13	The rise of the oriental West: identity/agency, global structure and contingency	294
	<i>Notes</i>	323
	<i>Index</i>	369