The essays in this volume probe the impact the digital revolution has had, or sometimes failed to have, on global business. Has digital technology, the authors ask, led to structural changes and greater efficiency and innovation? Although most of the essays support the idea that the information age has increased productivity in global business, the evidence of a “revolution” in the ways industries are organized is somewhat more blurred, with both significant discontinuities and features that persist from the second industrial revolution.

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In the early decades of the twenty-first century, the world economy is experiencing its most profound transformation since the industrial revolution. Firms, communications systems, and markets for products, services, labor, and currencies are all breaking out of national boundaries. Business enterprises today must negotiate a global environment in order to innovate and to compete in ways that will protect or enhance their market shares. Governments must respond in new ways to the periodic crises that occur in all market-centered systems. At the same time, governments and firms find it essential to understand the different perspectives growing out of local, regional, and national experiences with business and economic development. This has become a crucial competitive advantage to companies and a vital skill for those who study them. *Comparative Perspectives in Business History* explores these developments in a series of volumes that draw on the best work of scholars from a variety of nations writing on the history of enterprise, public and private. The series encourages the use of new styles of analysis and seeks to enhance understanding of modern enterprise and its social and political relations, leaders, cultures, economic strategies, accomplishments, and failures.

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The Third Industrial Revolution in Global Business

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