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0521548047 - Town and Country in Europe, 1300-1800 - Edited by S. R. Epstein

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Town and Country in Europe, 1300–1800

Relationships between town and country are central to Europe's long-term economic, political and social evolution. This book surveys and reinterprets these relations in particular countries and regions in the light of the most recent debates on state formation, urbanisation, proto-industrialisation, and the regional character of pre-modern economic growth. Thirteen specially commissioned chapters, ranging chronologically from the Black Death to the Enlightenment, give a comprehensive coverage of Europe, from Spain to Sweden and England, and from the Polish Commonwealth to Holland and Italy. Each chapter offers a self-contained analysis of its country or region and provides a basis for systematic comparison. The Introduction (by S. R. Epstein) discusses the historiographical and theoretical framework for the regional chapters, emphasising how evolving political configurations changed the balance between 'coercive' and 'market-based' solutions to town–country relations and set countries on different paths to growth.

S. R. EPSTEIN is Reader in Economic History at the London School of Economics. His books include *An island for itself: economic development and social transformation in late medieval Sicily* (1992), which received the Premio Rhegium Iulii (1996) for the best study of southern Italian history, and *Freedom and growth: the rise of states and markets in Europe, 1300–1750* (2000).

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