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Business History around the World

This book offers the first in-depth international survey of current research and debates in business history. Over the past two decades, enormous advances have been made in writing the history of business enterprise and business systems. Historians are documenting and analyzing the evolution of a wide range of important companies and systems, their patterns of innovation, production, and distribution, their financial affairs, their political activities, and their social impact. This volume is a reference work that will be of immense value to historians, economists, management researchers, and others concerned to access the latest insights on the evolution of business throughout the world.

Each essay is written by a prominent authority who provides an up-to-date assessment of the state and significance of research in his or her area. Part I debates the identity and parameters of the discipline, followed in Part II by wide-ranging surveys of the business history literature in the United States, Europe, Latin America, Japan, and the Chinese-speaking world. Part III examines international comparative research on multinationals, family business, and government relations.

Franco Amatori is Professor of Economic History at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. He has written extensively on Italian business history. He edited, with Alfred Chandler and Takashi Hikino, *Big Business and the Wealth of Nations* (Cambridge, 1997).

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COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES IN BUSINESS HISTORY

At the dawn of the twenty-first century the world economy is in the midst of the 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. At the same time, they are finding 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 upon 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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Edited by

FRANCO AMATORI

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Harvard Business School



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Franco Amatori and Geoffrey Jones

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