

REMAKING THE WORLD

How should we understand Europe's special role in world history, and the enduring impact it made on the rest of the globe? Jerrold Seigel traces both the positive and negative sides of the continent's distinctiveness to its absence of effective central authority, the division and competition between its states and peoples, and its propensity for developing autonomous spheres of activity. *Remaking the World* analyzes how these features fostered Europe's characteristic preoccupation with a politics of liberty, its evolution of an aesthetic sphere animated by values specific to itself, its singular capacity to revolutionize scientific understanding, and its ability to bring about the first transition to a modern industrial economy. Extended and substantive comparisons with Africa, India, China, and the lands that came under the rule of the Ottomans demonstrate the absence of similar phenomena elsewhere, whereas in Europe they also helped generate the malign force of imperial expansion.

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European Distinctiveness and the Transformation
of Politics, Culture, and the Economy

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CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>		viii
1	Introduction	1
	PART I Liberty and Liberties	15
2	A Preoccupation with Liberty	17
3	From Liberties to Liberty	39
4	Other Liberties	61
	PART II Autonomy and Teleocracy	93
5	Spaces of Autonomy: The Church, Universities, and the Bounds of Reason	95
6	Classical Humanism and Aesthetics	111
7	Science as a Sphere of Autonomy	130
8	Teleocratic Sciences	160
	PART III Openness and Domination	179
9	Other Peoples, Other Places	181
10	Empire: Material Expansion and Moral Contraction	202
11	Courage and Weakness: Anti-Imperialism and Its Limits in the Nineteenth Century	218

	PART IV	Making Industry Modern	237
12	Autonomy and Transformation: Britain		239
13	Transformation and Autonomy: France and Germany		262
14	Ready or Not? China and India		285
15	Conclusion		309
	<i>Notes</i>		314
	<i>Index</i>		360

FIGURES

1	Shitao, Reminiscences of Qin-Huai (Cleveland Museum of Art)	page 126
2	Shitao, 10,000 Ugly Inkblots, 1685 (Alamy Images)	126–27
3	Johannes Stabius, World Map (1515), engraved by Albrecht Dürer (Wikimedia Commons)	132
4	Frontispiece to Francis Bacon, <i>Instauratio Magna</i> , 1620 (British Museum)	135
5	Anonymous, Portrait of Matteo Ricci in China (Wikimedia Commons)	188
6	Edouard Manet, Execution of Emperor Maximillian, 1867 (Metropolitan Museum of Art)	206

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