The Spinning World A Global History Of Cotton Textiles 1200 185

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this collection of essays examines the history of cotton textiles at a global level over the period 1200 1850 it provides new answers to two questions what is it about cotton that made it the paradigmatic first global commodity and second why did cotton industries in different parts of the world follow different paths of development

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there are many studies of the chinese cotton textile industry for various time periods but most of them are rather limited in the scope of inquiry and occasionally their interpretations cannot stand rigorous economic reasoning the present study is an attempt to reorganized the data which are widely scattered in an extremely large number of chinese historical documents and modern writings in a systematic fashion and to provide an economic analysis since this study covers the entire history of the industry the limitations of space do not allow us to deal with every detail attention must be focused on the key issues

today s world textile and garment trade is valued at a staggering 425 billion we are told that under the pressure of increasing globalisation it is india and china that are the new world manufacturing powerhouses however this is not a new phenomenon until the industrial revolution asia manufactured great quantities of colourful printed cottons that were sold to places as far afield as japan west africa and europe cotton explores this earlier globalised economy and its transformation after 1750 as cotton led the way in the industrialisation of europe by the early nineteenth century india china and the ottoman empire switched from world producers to buyers of european cotton textiles a position that they retained for over two hundred years this is a fascinating and insightful story which ranges from asian and european technologies and african slavery to cotton plantations in the americas and consumer desires across the globe

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extract this study begun in mid 1974 looks at what has been happening to the cotton textile industry of eec member countries to their imports and exports of cotton textiles and to consumer demand the study was not designed to forecast the end of the current textile and economic slow down in the community or to project future levels of mill use of cotton rather emphasis is put on the fact that the community will continue to be a large market for raw cotton

during the first half of of the nineteenth century the united states emerged as a major producer of cotton textiles this paper argues that the expansion of domestic textile production is best understood as a path dependent process that was initiated by the proetction provided by the embargo act of 1807 and the war of 1812 this intial period of protected ended abruptly in 1815 with the conclusion of the war and the resumption of british imports but the political climate had been irreversibly changed by the temporary expansion of the industry after 1815 nascent manufacturers sought to protect the investments they had made by lobbying congress their efforts had an important impact on the

provisions concerning cotton textiles in the tariff bill of 1816 and during the 1820s manufacturers won increasingly strong protection culminating in the passage of the tariff of abominations in 1828

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