

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the final step of long-term research and discussions with many friends and colleagues. I would like to express my gratitude to the French Agency for Research (ANR), which provided funds for my archival researches in the Indian Ocean. The Wissenschafts Kolleg in Berlin supported the editing and provided the best environment in which to complete the final version. I am particularly indebted to the rector, Luca Giuliani. In France, the EHESS (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales) and the CNRS (Centre National des Recherches Scientifiques) provided funds and material support for my research.

Among my colleagues, I have benefited from the discussions with my very best friends Prabhu Mohapatra (Delhi University), Jane Burbank and Fred Cooper (NYU), and Marcel van der Linden (IISG, Amsterdam). I have also “exploited” Kimitaka Matsusato (Sapporo University), Kaoru Sugihara (Tokyo University), Takeo Suzuki (Waseda University), Haneda Masaki (Tokyo University), Gwyn Campbell (McGill University), Elise Kimerling Wirtschafter (Pomona University), Kenneth Pomeranz (Chicago University), Jürgen Kocka and Andreas Eckart (Re-work, Humboldt University), William Gervase Clarence-Smith (SOAS, London), Leon Fink (University of Illinois at Chicago), Gareth Austin (Graduate Institute, Geneva), Ravi Ahuja (University of Goettingen), Marina Mogilner and Ilya Guerasimov (Ab Imperio, Kazan), and Peter Holquist (University of Pennsylvania).

Finally, I want to express all my gratitude to my partner, Valentina Carbone, and my daughter Ella, for their patience during my far-too-long and far-too-deep involvement in this project.