



Forging Modernity

Why and How Britain Got the Industrial Revolution

by Martin Hutchinson

DESCRIPTION:

The Industrial Revolution provided the greatest increase in living standards the world has ever known while propelling Britain to dominance on the global stage. In *Forging Modernity*, Martin Hutchinson looks at how and why Britain gained this prize ahead of its European competitors. After comparing their endowments and political structures as far back as 1600, he then traces how Britain, through better policies primarily from the political Tory party, diverged from other European countries. Hutchinson's Harvard MBA allows a unique perspective on the early industrial enterprises - many successes resulted from marketing, control systems and logistics rather than from production technology alone, while on a national scale the scientific method and commercial competition were as important as physical infrastructure.

By 1830, through ever-improving policies, Britain had built a staggering industrial lead, half a century ahead of its rivals. Then the Tories lost power and policy changed forever. In his conclusion, Hutchinson shows how changes welcomed by conventional historians caused the decline of Industrial Britain. Nevertheless, the policies that drove growth, ingenuity and rising living standards are still available for those bold enough to adopt them.

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ISBN:

9780718896867 (hb)
9780718896874 (pdf)
9780718896881 (oth)
9780718896898 (pb)

PRICE:

\$90.00 (hb)
\$31.00 (pdf)
\$30.99 (oth)
\$38.00 (pb)

PUBLICATION DATE:

30 March 2023 (hb)
20 March 2023 (pdf)
30 March 2023 (oth)
30 November 2023 (pb)

BINDING:

Hardback & PDF eBook &
EPUB eBook & Paperback

PAGES:

450

PUBLISHER:

The Lutterworth Press

IMPRINT:

The Lutterworth Press

READER INTERESTS:

Early Modern Studies