



## CONTENTS

List of Illustrations .....	ix
Preface .....	xi
Introduction .....	1
The Great Divergence .....	1
Technological Change in China and Europe between c. 700 and 1800 .....	4
Religion, the Economy and Technology Before 1800: Different Views .....	15
Weberian Themes and the Little Divergence .....	15
Latin Christendom and China .....	18
Evaluation .....	23
A Long-Term Comparative Approach .....	27
Aims, Concepts and Approach .....	27
Plan and Argument of This Book .....	30
1 Religion and Visions on the Uses of Nature in China and Europe .....	33
Visions of Nature and the Great Divergence .....	34
Visions in Latin Christendom .....	34
Visions before Latin Christendom .....	39
Visions in China .....	42
Visions of Nature and the Little Divergence .....	48
Conclusion .....	54
2 Religion and Human Capital Formation in China and Europe .....	57
Variations in Human Capital Formation .....	59
Religious Institutions and Formal Learning .....	74
From Divergence to Convergence and Back Again .....	76
Variations in Vocational and Technical Education .....	91
Religious Institutions and Informal Learning .....	98
Conclusion .....	112

## CONTENTS

3	Religion and the Circulation of Technical Knowledge in China and Europe .....	117
	Religion and the Circulation of Technical Knowledge	
	Before 1500 .....	118
	Patterns of Circulation .....	118
	Religious Travelling .....	129
	Comparisons .....	137
	Religion and the Circulation of Technical Knowledge	
	After 1500 .....	138
	Texts, Images and Artefacts .....	138
	Movements of People .....	147
	Collection, Storage and Accessibility of Information .....	159
	Conclusion .....	169
4	Religion and Technical Innovation in China and Europe .....	173
	Religion, Technical Innovation and the Great Divergence ...	175
	Religious Institutions as Innovators .....	175
	Religious and Secular Settings of Innovation .....	177
	Incentives for Innovation .....	184
	Comparing Creativity in China and Europe .....	188
	Religion, Technical Innovation and the Little Divergence ....	199
	Common Trajectories .....	200
	Divergences in Creativity in Europe .....	203
	Technological Creativity and Religious Contexts .....	210
	Conclusion .....	219
	Conclusion .....	225
	Bibliography .....	235
	Index .....	265