

CONTENTS

<i>List of figures</i>	vii
<i>List of tables</i>	viii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
PART I	
Introduction and overview	1
1 K-waves, leadership cycles, and global war: an orientation	3
2 Evolutionary and coevolutionary considerations	22
PART II	
The ascendance of western europe	37
3 The 1490s: a question of evolutionary (dis)continuity?	39
4 The divergent coevolution of two eurasian regions	54
5 The military superiority thesis	74
PART III	
The leadership challenge sequence	101
6 The emergence of a challenge process	103
7 Mountains of gold and iron	119
8 Challenges in the active zone	134

CONTENTS

PART IV

Structural change and evolution	157
9 Britain as a system leader in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries	159
10 The Anglo-American rivalry before World War I	188
11 Passing the torch in a manner of speaking: the system leader lineage	205
<i>Notes</i>	222
<i>References</i>	233
<i>Index</i>	246