Contents

List of Illustrations ix Preface xi

- I. Positions and Problems 3Basic Hypotheses 3 Distance and Knowledge 7
- The Cultural Creation of Space and Distance 20
 Spatial Zones 22 Directionality, Distance, and Time 33
 The Politics of Distance 49
 - The Investigation of Cultural Distance 66
 Motives for Travel 66 The Ritual of Travel 80
 Men of Learning from Afar 94
 The Strange and the Precious 111
 - 4. The Authority of Distant Knowledge 131 Kingship and the Power Outside 131 Knowledge, Power, and Foreign Affairs 148 The Emperor's Zoo 163
- 5. Gods or Devils or Only Men 172

 Ancestors and Mythical Heroes 172 People of Power 182

 The Acquisition of European Power 191
 - 6. The Outer Realms of Christendom 211
 Wilderness and Paradise 211
 Merchants, Friars, and Other Heroes 237
 Aristocracy and the Wider World 249
 - 7. Conclusion 261

References 269 Index 293

vii