

Contents

List of Illustrations ix

Preface xi

Introduction

The View from the Broken Bridge: A Tale of Two Revolutions 1

Chapter 1

“For Lack of Order Poland Stands”: Religious, Political, and Economic Foundations of Polish Society 20

Chapter 2

From “Serfs of the Royal Chamber” to “Serfs of the Many Chambers” 57

Chapter 3

Commerce and Currency: Cultural Sources of Entrepreneurialism 75

Chapter 4

“How Far Behind Have We Remained”: Libations, Libels, and the Rhetoric of Reform 136

Chapter 5

The Polish Enlightenment, the Four-Year Sejm, and the Limits of Reform 191

Conclusion

The Broken Bridge Revisited: The Politics of Productivity 232

Bibliography 241

Index 263