

CONTENTS

List of diagrams and tables xi
List of abbreviations xii
Preface xiv

1 Patent offices and the global governance of knowledge 1

 The patent ocean: Kiribati 1

 Global patent governance 3

 Definitional clarifications 5

 Patents as private taxation 7

 Collective action, co-evolution and diffusion: explaining the changes
 in patent office administration 10

 Patent offices: the business model approach 18

 Disclosure and social value: two versions of the patent social
 contract 27

 The duties of the patent office 33

 The fieldwork trail and some findings 38

 ‘Invisible’ patent harmonization and why patent offices matter 47

2 Labyrinths and catacombs: Patent office procedure 55

 Welcome to the maze 55

 Filing routes 56

 A procedure, another procedure and yet more procedures 60

 Grant procedure 64

 Patent quality 69

 The dark heart of complexity: patent claims 79

3 The rise of patent offices 91

 Patent statutes 91

 Monopoly privileges 92

 Procedures for the grant of monopoly privileges 94

 The gap between patent law and patent administration 105

 The rise and spread of patent administration 110

4	The Sun and its planets: The European Patent Office and national offices	114
	Europe's national patent offices	114
	The birth of the European patent system	117
	The European Patent Convention	122
	Funding and fees at the EPO	124
	Surf's up: PCT waves	128
	The EPO and national patent offices: from centralization to cooperation and competition	130
	Technical assistance and technocratic trust	134
	The effects of technocratic trust	138
	The echoes of empire	142
5	The USPTO and JPO	144
	The USPTO	144
	The US patent system in the blink of an eye	144
	The problems in 1845	149
	The problems today	152
	Gaming behaviour	155
	Patent fees	158
	In whom do we trust?	159
	The Japanese patent system: from diffusion to monopoly rights	162
	Joining the club	164
	On being a senior member of the club	167
	Becoming an IP nation	171
	Trust and automation	174
6	The age of Trilaterals and the spirit of cooperation	177
	Trilateral cooperation	177
	Overwork	180
	The spirit of cooperation: the Patent Cooperation Treaty	181
	The spirit of cooperation: companies and the PCT	183
	On being an international authority	188
	The Trilateral hub	189
	Superhighways of cooperation	191
	The superhighway elite: trust, cooperation and competition	193
	The manual is the message	195
7	The jewel in the crown: India's Patent Office	199
	Integration	199

	CONTENTS	ix
	India: re-designing a colonial institution	200
	The patent raj	206
	India's Patent Office: the jewel in the crown	207
	Modernization	209
	'How can we win?': India's strategy on patents	212
	From bright line rules to shades of grey	213
	A patent-bright future?	217
8	The dragon and the tiger: China and South Korea	221
	Patent law in the era of decline, rebellion and war.	221
	Patents in communist China	223
	Opening the door to patents	226
	The great leap forward: the State Intellectual Property Office	230
	The Asian Trilaterals	235
	The tiger office	236
9	Joining the patent office conga line: Brazil	242
	Brazil: the nineteenth century	242
	Brazil the leader	245
	Brazil's Patent Office: 'making the IP business much bigger'	250
10	Islands and regions in the patent stream	257
	The force of empire	257
	New empires	260
	New missionaries	264
	Regional automation	272
	Regional patent organizations	274
	One patent god	282
11	Reclaiming the patent social contract	285
	A private insider governance network	285
	A counter network of outsiders	290
	The separation of powers principle	293
	New insiders for insider governance	294
	An external audit check	295
	Taking transparency seriously	298
	Transparency registers	304
	'The ticket clippers': regulating the patent attorney profession	308
	Examiners and patent quality	314

x	CONTENTS	
12	Patent administration sovereignty: Nodal solutions for small countries, developing countries	318
	Sovereignty matters	318
	Outsourcing the patent social contract	321
	Centralized regionalization: making regulatory capture easier	324
	Nodal governance	326
	Public nodal governance in patent administration	332
	Not raising one's head above the parapet: lost opportunities in a world of nodal governance	336
	<i>Index</i>	341