

Evolution of Slavery Part I

Trade Cometh Before Banking



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10 hr ago

Summary

Slavery is one of the oldest businesses on earth. This series will explore the evolution of slavery and the ways in which the Prussian rulers, or invisible enemy, continued to maintain their control over humanity, in such a way that is not obvious.

#PrussiaGate has provided significant evidence that the invisible enemy currently utilizes the realm of international law, controlling nations via various treaties and agreements. International law is the realm of corporate law, civil law and statutes, meaning that mandates are offered, inviting nations into agreement. Generally speaking, it is only with the agreement of two parties, that mandates become legal.

Most major treaties on earth were signed during a war, or soon after. In this context, they appear to be peace treaties, however if you look carefully, you'll see they are cleverly crafted trade agreements. Essentially, the war was postponed, provided that all parties agreed to act in accordance with the treaty. While these treaties could be wide-ranging in scope, the major provisions during the Great Wars related to the use of certain seas and ports. Treaties are often revised, but usually within the context of the one that preceded it. The means that a partial war-time context still exists within the world.

#PrussiaGate has shown how the establishment of the US Federal Reserve played a significant role during WWI. General Smedley Butler pointed out the enormous profits made by American corporations during the war. American and German corporations then built a staggering amount of wealth in the following decades. We have highlighted the role central banks play in controlling nations, via national debt. This context has resulted in a form of debt slavery, where behavior can be controlled, ensuring humanity is in a form of captivity.

Understanding debt slavery requires an understanding of central banking. Understanding central banking requires an understanding of trade. Understanding trade requires an understanding of merchants. Part 1 of this series will take you on a deep dive into the origins of trade, as we further understand the hold that Prussian ideology has on the earth.


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Trade Cometh Before Banking:

A Clash Between Two Economies

Throughout the ReichsWEF series we mentioned Henry Kissinger's obsession with Thucydides trap as it applied to China-US relations. According to one of Kissinger's oldest students, Graham Allison, today the world is on the brink of a catastrophic war between the rising power of China and the falling power of America. In this "Thucydides Redux", Allison makes no apologies as to what he believes is the solution:

Unless China is willing to scale back its ambitions or Washington can accept becoming number two in the Pacific, a trade conflict, cyberattack, or accident at sea could soon escalate into all-out war.

1

Thucydides was an Athenian general who wrote the contemporary History of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta. "It was the rise of Athens and the fear that this instilled in Sparta that made war inevitable."²

Why was the rise of Athens such a concern to Sparta? The answer may lie in the economic model Athens chose, and the Spartan realization that their days of supremacy were numbered.

The Spartan Economy

"In Sparta their economy relied on farming and on conquering other people. They did not have enough land to feed all their people so they took their neighbors land. In Sparta they used slaves and noncitizens to produce the needed goods.....Sparta discouraged trading overall. They believed that contact with other city-states would give them new ideas, and then weaken the Spartan government. It was difficult to trade with Sparta because of their money system. They did not have coins so they used heavy iron bars. A legend says that they used

iron bars because it was harder to steal them because they were so heavy. Citizens were not anxious to receive the iron bars.”³

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In short, Sparta relied on their military to implement a direct master-slave society. If you were Spartan, you would train for war. If not, you were enslaved for Sparta.

Trade was discouraged, along with new ideas. Sparta was the ultimate totalitarian society. Nothing new was allowed because Sparta already had the “total” concept. Adopting iron bars as currency was generally viewed by other city states as a Spartan shit-coin; no one wanted them.

Sparta was effectively a closed, centralized, command economy. Rather than develop a trade network to import the goods they needed, their preference was to conquer and enslave the regions which could supply them.

The Athenian Economy

“In Athens their economy was based on trade. The land that surrounded Athens didn’t provide the people with enough food. Athens was near the sea which was good because it meant they had a good harbor, and that they could trade easily.....Athens developed their own money system. They made coins made of gold, silver, and bronze.”⁴

This approach was in stark contrast to Sparta. The exponential rise in prosperity that Athenians experienced during this period was based on trade and a multi-metallic monetary system. Their economy began to evolve in complexity and allowed for the birth of free-thinkers such Socrates and Plato; both have heavily influenced Western civilization ever since.

Sparta believed that new ideas would weaken their city-state. Athens believed that trade could deliver new ideas. This brought prosperity and became the driving force behind their power. This was an impossible paradox for Sparta to solve. As Athens relentlessly grew in economic and military might, Sparta’s only viable option was to go to war.

It was a clash between two competing economies. The Pelponnesian War lasted for decades. While Sparta was the ultimate victor, the economic model of Athens had shown future empires how free-trade and free-thought can deliver immeasurable prosperity to its citizens, and unimaginable power to its rulers.

Trade is Power

Many empires have risen and fallen since Ancient Greece. A commonly accepted theory is that trade routes evolved amongst emerging empires:

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- trade creates wealth,
- wealth creates power,
- therefore, those who control trade, have the power.

Trade routes provide the key ingredients for a thriving economy, and therefore a strong empire. Access to cheap labor (ie: slaves), natural resources, finished goods and innovation all comprise an empire's capital. Trade was the engine that empowered empires.

A quick background into global trade will provide a valuable foundation for this series.

Carthage

Carthaginian Trade: Trade Routes of Ancient Carthage

12 min read

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Written by Editorial Staff | Published on October 31, 2021



Trade played a significant role in Carthage's legacy. The Carthaginians dominated the ancient Mediterranean trade. At a time when the Greeks and many others were going through a dark age, they sailed the western Mediterranean. Carthage's empire grew as a result of trade profits, and it eventually rivaled the Roman military in size and power.

The Carthaginians were highly successful traders who sailed the Mediterranean with their goods, and Carthage became the richest city in the ancient world as a result of their success. Metals, food, slaves, and high-quality manufactured goods such as fine cloths and gold jewelry were purchased and sold to anyone with the means. The Carthaginians developed a reputation for their mercantile prowess and ability to sell anything to anyone, but always at a price.

The new territories would generate enormous wealth, primarily through the extraction of resources such as gold and silver from conquered regions. Similarly to how European powers plundered the indigenous peoples of the ancient Americas in the sixteenth century CE, the Carthaginians prospered handsomely by transferring cheaply acquired metals to regions where they had a much higher value.

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Phoenician trade routes and the rise of Carthage.

Additionally, these new territories, which later necessitated the establishment of colonies to safeguard trade interests and market monopolies, would eventually provide new markets for Carthaginian manufactured goods and those acquired through trade with other cultures. Nor were the Carthaginians restricted to sea routes; they were also known to exploit the Sahara's caravan routes.

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Carthage was by far the richest city in the Mediterranean. Their immense wealth created a ruling class that would spare no expense in glorifying their Phoenician origins, and the religious practices that accompanied it.

Carthaginian religion focused on the god Kronos, the Greek deity of mythology associated with the Titans. Yet Carthaginians also sacrificed children to Kronos, an identification with the Phoenician Semitic deity Baal, mentioned frequently in the Old Testament. Although all ancient societies practiced degrees of infanticide, the sacrifice of children – in the case of Carthage bright, healthy children, was abhorrent to the Romans. Hannibal's name meant "Baal's Blessing."

6

As Carthage grew fat on the wealth secured by their trade routes, another empire was building on the other side of the Mediterranean.

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Ancient Rome

The Roman empire originally developed as a land-power. The empire's initial growth was not directly affected by the mercantilist practices of Carthage, which predominantly worked the Mediterranean trade routes. However, as Rome grew, it became evident that her economy was prospering in the same way as the Carthage empire was. Both empires had secured lucrative trade routes.

First and foremost we should bear in mind that the economy of Ancient Rome was essentially a market based competitive economy – capitalistic in nature. Many of the mechanisms at work were similar to those which we observe today although it didn't reach the same degree of complexity and largely remained focused on the use of cheap slave labour to feed the masses.

As may be seen in the pages about [ancient Rome's trade](#) the fortunes of ancient Roman economy were made up of a number of factors: access to cheap labour by way of slavery, access to relatively peaceful traderoutes, a relatively liquid supply-demand mechanism, a single currency and a sharply increasing population which acted as a good sink of growing demand. Observation of a single product such as [ancient roman wine](#) is sufficient to give us a pretty good feel of the mechanisms at work which in many ways were international mechanisms. Events such as the invasion of Sicily (essentially a granary) or the elimination of Pompeii had economic effects which extended far and wide across the growing empire.

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The power and might of the Roman military was used to expand and secure the empire. However, the decisions of *where* to expand were likely informed by the trade routes that were developing, and the various products that merchants were delivering to Rome.

"Ancient Rome" intended in the wider sense to include its dominions, was a market economy open to free trade: Military conquest often came across Roman merchants who had already opened and established trade routes into the same region.

8

With both empires expanding trade routes, Rome's military conquests eventually led to an unavoidable conflict with Carthage. 264 BC began the first of the great Punic Wars. Three major confrontations between Carthage and Rome led to the eventual annihilation of Carthage in 146 BC. Rome eventually rebuilt Carthage as a Roman city, and continued its expansion for centuries.

The control of trade was essential to deliver an empire the wealth needed to maintain and continue its expansion. However, trade routes would also become the prize, which would ultimately lead to conflict and end in potential annihilation. Expansion of trade therefore, carried significant risk.


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Khazaria

One of the most powerful and least known empires of the West was Khazaria.

The Khazars: A Forgotten Medieval Empire that Ruled the Northern Caucasus

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"The Khazar people were an unusual phenomenon for Medieval times. Surrounded by savage and nomadic tribes, they had all the advantages of the developed countries: structured government, vast and prosperous trading, and a permanent army. At the time, when great fanaticism and deep ignorance contested their dominion over Western Europe, the Khazar state was famous for its justice and tolerance. People persecuted for their faiths flocked into Khazaria from everywhere. As a glistening star it shone brightly on the gloomy horizon of Europe, and faded away without leaving any traces of existence."

- Vasilii V. Grigoriev, in his essay "O dvoystvennosti verkhovnoy vlasti u khazarov" (1835), reprinted in his 1876 compilation book *Rossiia i Aziya*

”

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The Khazarian empire played a critical role in the early development of Western Europe. Their empire was strong, militant and on a constant war-footing. Due to its geographic location, they sat at the frontier between Western Europe and the Arabian tribes attempting to invade Europe:

The Khazars' sway extended from the Black Sea to the Caspian, from the Caucasus to the Volga, and they were instrumental in stopping the Muslim onslaught against Byzantium, the eastern jaw of the gigantic pincer movement that in the West swept across northern Africa and into Spain.

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The Khazars were so valued by a decaying Roman Empire, that Khazarian power managed to infiltrate Europe:

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“a tangible form through another dynastic alliance, when their heir to the throne was married to a Khazar princess, whose son was to rule Byzantium as Leo the Khazar.”¹¹

One of the most important factors in the rise of the Khazarian empire was its location.



Khazaria was an important trade route connecting Asia and Europe. For example, the "Silk Road" was an important link between China, Central Asia, and Europe. Among the things traded along the Khazar trade routes were silks, furs, candlewax, honey, jewelry, silverware, coins, and spices. [Jewish Radhanite traders](#) of Persia passed thru Itil on their way to western Europe, China, and other locations. The Iranian Sogdians also made use of the Silk Road trade, and their language and runic letters became popular among the Turks. Khazars traded with the people of Khwarizm (northwest Uzbekistan) and Volga Bulgaria and also with port cities in Azerbaijan and Persia.

¹²

The Khazars had taken control of some of the most valuable trade routes in the world. Not only trade between East and West, but also the trade between the Byzantines and the fierce 'Rus' (or Russians), to the North:

Sarkel was built just in time; it enabled them to control the movements of the Rus flotillas along the Don and the Don-Volga portage (the "Khazarian Way"). By and large it seems that during the presence on the scene the plundering raids of the Rus were mainly directed against Byzantium (richer plunder was to be had), whereas their relations with the Khazars were essentially on a trading basis, not without friction and intermittent clashes. At any rate, the Khazars were able to control the Rus trade routes and to levy their 10 per cent tax on all cargoes passing through their country to Byzantium and to the Muslim lands.

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Khazaria's prosperity and power was not due to trade directly, but the control of trade routes and the rights to levy taxes (estimated to be approximately 10%) on all goods the merchants brought through their lands. The success of their tax collection was directly correlated to the strength and ferocity of their permanent standing army, which would be ordered to destroy anyone who refused to pay-their-way.

For centuries this strategy proved to be very successful. The power and influence of the Kagan (or king of Khazaria), was renown. However, the control of trade would eventually irritate the mighty Rus, and a confrontation with the Khazarian Empire was only a matter of time.

While the Rus initially paid the Khazarians to cross the Black Sea and plunder the lands to the South, this fiscal arrangement would not be permanent. History is opaque as to the exact nature of the fall of Khazaria, but it did involve fierce battles from the growing power of the Rus. The Khazars knew all too well the menace facing them from the North, and began making plans to defend against them, on the Azov Sea:

Yet in the middle of this comparatively idyllic period there is an ominous episode which foreshadowed new dangers. In 833, or thereabouts, the Khazar Kagan and Bek sent an embassy to the East Roman Emperor Theophilus, asking for skilled architects and craftsmen to build them a fortress on the lower reaches of the Don. The Emperor responded with alacrity. He sent a fleet across the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov up the mouth of the Don to the strategic spot where the fortress was to be built.

The potential enemy against whom this impressive fortress was built by joint Roman-Khazar effort, were those formidable and menacing newcomers on the world scene, whom the West called Vikings or Norsemen, and the East called Rhous or Rhos or Rus.

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Eventually the might of Rus became too strong for the Khazarians, and their empire was obliterated into the annals of history.

Trade routes and the reach of an empire

The Halls of History are awash with examples of empires whose rise can be attributed to their access, creation and control of trade. Those same empires also suffer a cataclysmic fall as rival powers seek to fight and takeover trade routes. The rise and fall of empires, therefore, is inextricably linked to their ability to trade.

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However, Athens, Carthage, Rome and Khazaria all pale in comparison to one of the greatest trading empires in world history.

The Hanseatic League

Before the empires of Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands or the British were established, and well before the birth of Prussia, the Hanseatic League staked its claim as one of the biggest players in European history:

For nearly four centuries the Hanse was a major economic, political, and social factor in the formation of Europe—it facilitated the exchange not just of commodities, but also of people and ideas. Dozens of preserved medieval marketplaces in towns around the Baltic littoral, from Tallinn, Estonia, to Gdansk, Poland, to Lübeck, Germany, bear witness to the greatness of the Hanse during its heyday.

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Lübeck: The Birth of the Hanse

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The Hanseatic League was a loose federation of initially German merchant guilds that dominated Baltic trade for over 400 years. It had its own legal system, and kept its own army, but it was not a city-state like the Italian city states of the time. The Hanseatic League (Hansa = “guild”) was officially born when the German city of Lübeck was rebuilt in the mid-12th century by Henry the Lion, Duke of Saxony and Bavaria (1129-1195). In 1241, Lübeck entered into an alliance with Hamburg and Cologne followed suit in 1260.

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It is important to note that members of the Hanseatic League were granted their autonomy by the Holy Roman Emperor, and were referred to as “Free Imperial Cities”. As the Hanse merchant’s trading enterprises grew exponentially, so did their power and influence, as well as a few other fringe-benefits:

What’s Not to Love?: The Perks of Being a Hanse Merchant

Hanse merchants were exempt from paying customs or tariffs on goods, or other fees such as *pontage* (a toll levied for the repair or building of bridges), they were also free from arrest.

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Perhaps the most significant achievement of the Hanseatic League was the establishment of the Steelyard (Stahlhof) in London, along with several privileges handed to them by the Crown.

In 1157, the Hanse convinced Henry II of England to exempt their merchants from paying tolls in London and to be able to trade freely at fairs across England. The Hanse were also granted a charter from Henry III forming a powerful Hanseatic group in London. The Steelyard (currently, the location of Cannon Street station) was their guildhall. No prostitutes, no Englishmen (in case they learned Hanse secrets), no goldsmiths, and no barbers were permitted to enter.

19

Granting concessions to the Hanse merchants was a poor decision. The same not reciprocated to English merchants in Hanse cities, and so the English mer from an uneven playing field. This, along with the exclusivity and secrecy of the Steelyard, led to growing tensions between England and the Hanseatic League. Eventually, these tensions spread further abroad:

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Retaliation

Lack of reciprocity, perceptions of exclusivity and mistreatment of merchants in Hanseatic cities in Prussia, Norway and Sweden, caused a spate of attacks against Hanse merchants. Attacks increased across Europe from the 13th century onwards as resentment of their privileges grew. In 1284 Norwegian guild merchants attacked Hanse merchants because they didn't want them to trade there.

In 1419, 40 Hanseatic ships were captured and their cargo destroyed near La Rochelle in a tussle over guild rights between Spanish and German merchants. This caused a war between Spain and the Hanseatic League that lasted for 20 years.

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The Hanse had grown so powerful that they could no longer be considered as just a conglomerate of merchants. The Hanse had monopolized trade on the Baltic and North Seas. The wealth generated by controlling Baltic trade afforded them many luxuries; one of them being a powerful military. Moreover, if a kingdom disagreed with the terms and conditions of the Hanseatic League, they could effectively cut off the supply chain and plunge that nation's economy into a

depression prior to the use of military force. Any war against the League would be military, but also economic:

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These aspects of the Hanseatic League gave them the ability to wage war on their own. Supported by their own military force, the league did engage in a few conflicts. One of the most important was the war with Denmark, which took place from 1361 to 1370, and was largely successful for the league. After allying with Cologne, they sacked Copenhagen and Helsinki, forcing the Danish King Valdemar IV to grant the league 15% of profits from Danish trade. This result gave the Hanseatic League a big foothold within the trading and economic monopoly of Scandinavia.

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The Anglo-Hanseatic War was fought from 1469 to 1474, the Hanseatic navy taking advantage of an England weakened by civil war to impose unfavourable trade terms: the merchants of the *Stalhof* agreed to maintain Bishopsgate at their own expense, but through it would pass, to the profit of these merchants, the woollen cloth of England, on its way to the Hanseatic warehouses of East Anglia.

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Eventually, the Hanseatic League managed to piss off too many kingdoms, all at once. The ensuing wars were proving costly and provided little return on investment. Trading privileges were rescinded; local merchants attacked, ransacked and destroyed Hanse trading houses; in some cases, Hanse merchants were assaulted, and even executed.

Conventional history tells us that the Hanseatic League began a multi-century descent into oblivion:

Hanse continued its decline over the course of the 16th century. Queen Elizabeth I eventually abolished the Hanse in London in 1597, and the Steelyard closed permanently in 1598. The last Hanse Diet of 1669 was only attended by nine members. The Hanseatic League officially collapsed in 1862.

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However, #PrussiaGate contends that all things that involve this Horrible Invisible Enemy do not simply vanish into the history books. This enemy regroups, morphs, and moves forward in

invisibility. The Hanseatic League, including the Prussian cities that were part of the league, were an exception.

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There are several aspects to the history of the Hanseatic League that require careful attention as we seek to bring into view that which has been hidden for so long.

The Birth of Modern Banking

We will address banking in more detail later, however it is worth noting that one of the 'stated reasons' for the decline of the Hanse was credit and innovation in banking:

New vehicles of credit were imported from Italy, where double-entry book-keeping was popularly formalized in 1494, and outpaced the Hansa economy, in which silver coins changed hands rather than bills of exchange.

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This story is highly unlikely. The Hanse merchants were skilled traders. One of the key and timeless characteristics of a successful trader is the pragmatic approach to new ideas and systems. If the application of bills of exchange could provide an advantage to the Hanse, they would not only have adopted the strategy, but maximized its potential.

As we shall present later, the birth of modern banking did not destroy the Hanse merchants, but instead presented them with an opportunity that was too good to refuse. They would join the banking revolution of Europe.

The Thirty Years War

The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) finally destroys the trading area of Hanseatic merchants. There was no longer any thought of an orderly trade of goods.

In 1669 the last hanseatic day of the Hanseatic League took place in Lübeck.

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The Thirty Years War brought famine, plague, war and untold death to Europe from 1618-1648. However, at the end of the war, Prussia had risen from the ashes to become a kingdom and eventually would become a world superpower. Prussian cities that were part of Hanseatic League

began to flourish. Over the next few centuries, Prussia came to dominate many of the cities that were part of the Hanseatic League.

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The Great Fire of 1666

Recall in our article, **1666**:

1666 – Fire of London:

The Great Fire of London swept through the central parts of London from 2 – 6 September 1666. The fire gutted the medieval City of London inside the old Roman city wall. It threatened but did not reach the City of Westminster (today's West End) or Charles II's Palace of Whitehall. It destroyed 87 parish churches, St Paul's Cathedral and most of the buildings of the City authorities.

In an amazing coincidence, the Great Fire of London destroyed one of the most important assets of the Hanseatic League; the London Steelyard.

The timing of this event and the resulting Prussian dominance of the cities that were part of the Hanseatic League begs further investigation. Was the Steelyard really destroyed or was it relocated? Did the Hanseatic League really disappear?

- **1666** Steelyard destroyed in the Great Fire of London.
- **Unspecified time after 1666** Steelyard rebuilt as warehouses and rented out to merchants.
- **1803–1815** Patrick Colquhoun was appointed as Resident Minister and Consul general of the Hanseatic League. He was also **Stalhofmeister**, "**master of the Steelyard**". Colquhoun provided indirect communication between Northern Germany and Whitehall during the European blockade of the Napoleonic wars, i.e. he was a spy.
- **1852** Steelyard sold to the South-Eastern Railway Company by the Hanseatic towns of, Lübeck, Bremen and Hamburg.

The Hanseatic League was *never* officially dissolved.

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1862 Lubeck



The salzspeicher (salt storehouses) of Lübeck in Germany are six historic brick buildings which are still standing today. The salt trade in the Middle Ages helped make Lübeck the center of all Baltic trade. (Isurnfoto /Adobe Stock)

Lubeck was the capital of the Hanseatic League. In 1862, the Hanseatic League was considered to be officially abolished. While it is contended the League never officially dissolved, perhaps what is more important are the events around 1862, particularly with respect to Prussia.

Recall in ***ReichsWEF I***, the *RealPolitik* practiced by Otto von Bismarck involved three wars termed “*The German Unification Wars*”. These wars began in earnest after Bismarck’s infamous “Blood and Iron” speech:

The first war of German unification was the 1862 Danish War, begun over the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. Bismarck allied with Austria to fight the Danes in a war to protect the interests of Holstein, a member of the German Confederation.

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Lubeck was a city of Schleswig-Holstein, and by 1866, had become part of Prussia. Prussia was slowly acquiring the old Hanse towns.

As we dive deeper into the demise of the Hanseatic League, a familiar pattern of devastation of the Thirty Years War and the Great Fire of London are events that led to the demise and eventual disappearance of the most powerful trading bloc of the time. However, instead of collapse, the Hanseatic League appears to have not disappeared at all, but instead transformed itself into a far more sophisticated beast. As expected, Prussia have their finger prints all over it.

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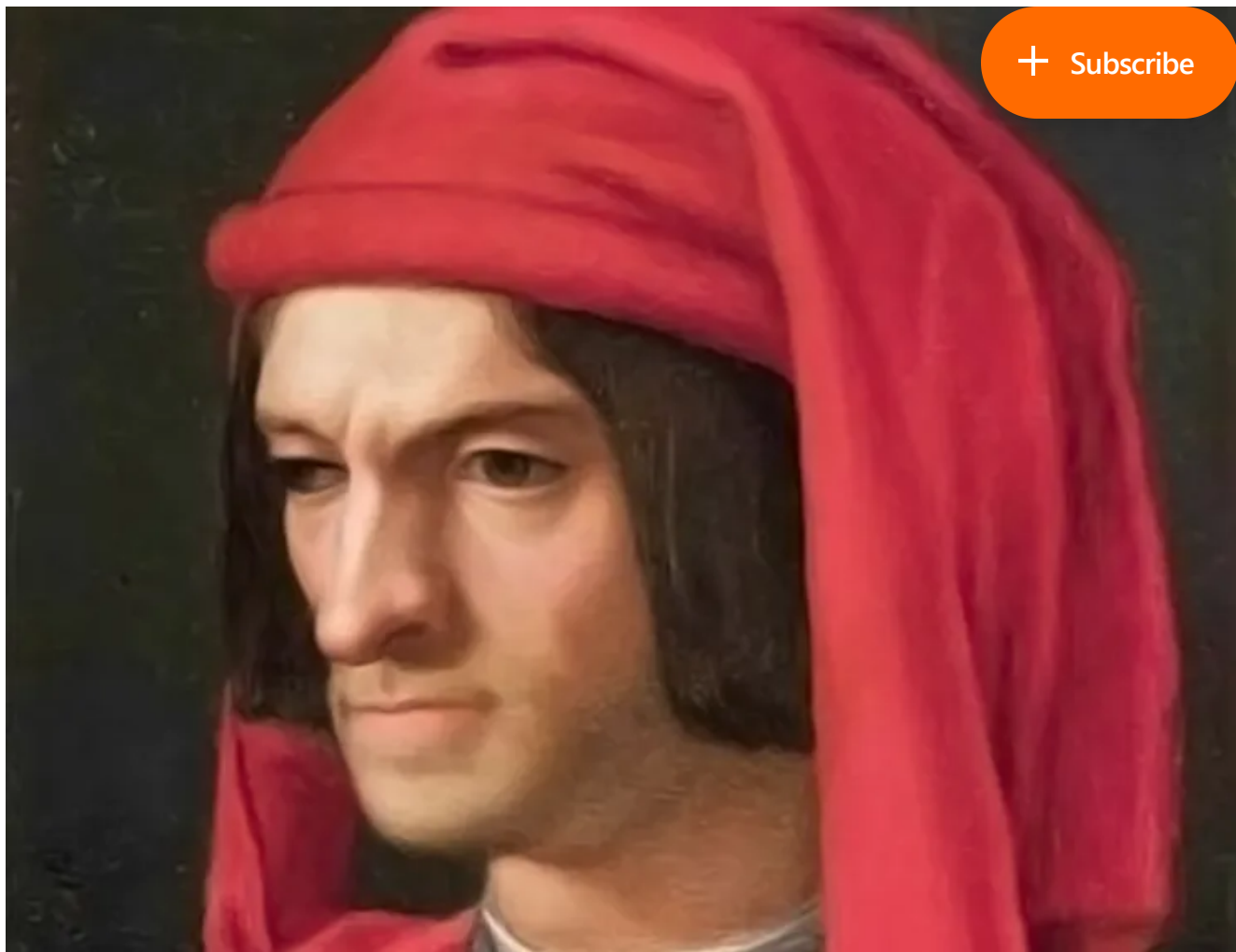
Medici and the Birth of Debt-Based Trade

Before we explore the idea that the Hanseatic League transitioned into invisibility, it is important to understand the origins of modern banking and how it has infiltrated every aspect of society today.

In its original iteration, banking was simply the safe deposit of a person's cash, which were denominations of minted gold and silver coins. The role of banker was primarily as a high-security gold smith. A successful banker would not only be able to hold gold on your behalf, but would have branch offices where you could access your deposits almost anywhere in Europe.

While holding deposits, some of the early bankers began extending loans. Loans were a tricky and dangerous business. Should a borrower default on a loan, the banker may be unable to repay a depositor, and in many cases would end up hung, drawn and quartered. To avert this risk, bankers would only offer loans that were exceptionally over-collateralized. If borrowers were unable to repay their debts, they could end up losing their entire family fortune at the hands of the money-lenders. Banking was a ruthless and cut-throat industry where immense wealth was formed by only the shrewdest banking families.

Almost every banking dynasty we know today was formed by families who first began building their wealth as traders and merchants. The Florentine Medici dynasty were no different. Their contribution to the evolution of banking changed the economy of Western civilization forever.



(Lorenzo the Magnificent)

The Medici family began in earnest in the ‘rag trade’:

Who were the De Medici?

The Medici family originally originate in a small village to the north of Florence. In the thirteenth century, the first Medici arrived in Florence. The family soon prospered in their new home. The early De Medici’s made their money in the wool trade. They used the profits that they made in the wool trade to diversify their business interests. Giovanni di Bicci de’ Medici (c. 1360–1429) increased the family’s wealth, established the Medici Bank, and became one of Florence’s richest men.^[1]

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The banking innovation attributed to the Medici was the practice of “double-entry bookkeeping”.

Double-entry bookkeeping

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The invention of double-entry bookkeeping can be traced to slightly before Giovanni de Medici's time, but it was the family who first popularised its use in their banks. The Medici banks needed a more accurate way of keeping the books and minimising errors due to the influx of wealth generated from traders of the period. The mercantile class was booming- weaving across Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Silk Road trading expensive goods such as silk, cloth and spices.

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The Medici were also innovators in financial structures and the issuance of letters of credit, or debt. All of this contributed greatly to the worldwide expansion of European trade. The secret to banker wealth lay within the double-entry bookkeeping formula:

$$\text{ASSETS} = \text{LIABILITIES} + \text{EQUITY}$$

This is a relatively well-known formula amongst financial operators today, but it was an exceptionally powerful tool in 15th Century Europe, especially for the merchant families who understood its potential at the time.

Example:

If a trader could return from the Silk Road with \$1000 purchase of silk, its market value in Europe may fetch \$10,000. This was a worthy trade. However, there were very few who could afford to pay the high prices demanded by silk traders. Therefore, instead of paying the trader up front, buyers would promise to pay the \$10,000 over time. That promise became a loan agreement, and an asset for the trader.

For the buyer of the silk, they owned \$10,000 worth of silk but also had a liability of \$10,000 to pay back. To avoid default and potential bankruptcy, they would endeavor to pay back that loan as fast as possible. This could be accomplished by making a quick on-sell (flipping) or manufacturing the silk into a higher-end product for a value-added profit. The time pressure to pay back debt would force the European economy into overdrive, and productivity soared.

1492 was not just about Columbus “sailing the ocean blue”, it was about the financial innovation occurred which laid the foundations for Europe to expand beyond its borders. Traders would amass unimaginable wealth if they supplied Europeans with the high-end goods they were demanding. Silk, spices, gold, silver, slaves and many other goods were retrieved from every corner of the globe, as Europe paid more than any other civilization on earth. This was not taking place because they were necessarily richer, but because they promised to pay the highest price at a later date. Essentially, they had a medieval credit card. The efficiency and popularity of this debt instrument altered the course of humanity forever.

These debt instruments were efficiently administered first through the Medici ledger, and soon thereafter by the most successful trading houses in Europe. Traders no longer demanded gold and silver up front to pay for their goods; a letter of credit would suffice. This credit note would become their asset, with the buyer shouldering the burden of debt on the other side of the equation. When the amount of debt owed to a trading house became extraordinarily large, they were no longer traders; they had become bankers.

This marked the beginning of a debt-based economy, where one man’s wealth was another man’s debt. It launched many of the most infamous banking dynasties we know today into a world of incomprehensible wealth and power.

The Medici family rose to incredible power. Not only did they establish themselves as a powerful political force in Florence and beyond, they also became bankers to the Vatican. The family would produce four popes. At their peak, their wealth was so large they are known as the largest patron of the arts during the Renaissance era. They commissioned some of the finest buildings in Florence, and also supported artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Donatello, Raffaello, and also patroned Galileo Galilei (who also tutored the Medici children).

From their origins as merchants and traders, the Medici morphed into a massive banking house and played a significant role in the development of Western civilization. They were not alone; many other trading houses had discovered the ‘Banker’s Trick’ and the wealth and power of Europe began rapidly centralizing into their hands.

Banking Dynasties of Europe

The Medici were just one of a plethora of families who transformed their trading activities into banking dynasties.

Rahn+Bodmer

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Recall in *The ReichsWEF Part V*, Klaus Schwab's family had close ties with Swabian nobility. Klaus' father, Eugen, worked for Escher Wyss, an old Swiss engineering company that provided aid to the Nazi war machine, including the ability for the Nazis to produce the heavy water needed for an atomic bomb. Klaus developed a close bond to the Bodmer family, and followed his mentor and middle-namesake, Martin Bodmer, to Switzerland where he established the World Economic Forum.

Zurich's oldest private bank, Rahn+Bodmer, was formed by some of the wealthiest Swabian families. The Escher, Bodmer and Schulthess families all helped in the evolution of the bank. Notably, their fortunes did not begin with banking, but with trade:

In 1750, Zurich merchants Caspar and Hans Conrad Schulthess set up a silk-trading business in the "Zum gewundenen Schwert" building on the Limmatquai. On extended stays abroad and regular business trips, Hans Conrad Schulthess gained a wealth of experience not only in the purchase and distribution of silk, but also in his sideline business, trading in securities and bills of exchange. The intuitive and successful businessman was regarded as an authority in the town, and his premises were a meeting point for Zurich's scholarly and literary elite in the second half of the eighteenth century.



Zurich's Limmatquai around 1750, with the "Zum gewundenen Schwert" building in the centre.

In the nineteenth century, the business gradually transformed from a silk-trading company into an establishment focused solely on banking.

30

Berenberg



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Established in 1590, the Berenberg Bank is known as the world's oldest merchant bank:

The **Berenberg family** (Dutch for "bear mountain") was a Flemish-originated Hanseatic family of merchants, bankers and senators in Hamburg, with branches in London, Livorno and other European cities. The family was descended from the brothers Hans and Paul Berenberg from Antwerp, who came as Protestant refugees to the city-republic of Hamburg following the Fall of Antwerp in 1585 and who established what is now Berenberg Bank in Hamburg in 1590. The Berenbergs were originally cloth merchants and became involved in merchant banking in the 17th century. Having existed continuously since 1590, Berenberg Bank is the world's oldest surviving merchant bank.

31

The fact that Berenberg was a Hanseatic family is an important note for later, but the main point here is that the Berenberg established their banking empire from a successful cloth trading business:

The Berenberg family originates from the Bergisches Land region in the Duchy of Berg. Its earliest known ancestor, Thillmann Berenberg, was born on the Groß-Berenberg estate in 1465, and was a cloth merchant.

32

The Berenbergs, and later the Gossler family, worked closely with one of England's most powerful banking dynasties; the Barings family. Their wealth and power in Hamburg were duly recognized by Prussia, who later ennobled them as Barons of Berenberg-Gossler.

Warburg

We have presented in *The Prussian Origins of the U.S. Federal Reichsbank* and the series, *Not Since 1917* the enormous influence the Warburg brothers had in global central-banking circles. Paul Warburg, known as the "Chief Architect of the Federal Reserve", migrated from Germany

and worked tirelessly to promote and establish the Federal Reserve central bank in the US. He was appointed Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in 1918.

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His brother, Max Warburg, followed a similar path with the German Reichsbank. Despite the rise of the Nazi party, he served on the Board of the German Reichsbank from 1933, before emigrating to America in 1938. Both brothers served as directors in the notorious I.G. Farben conglomerate, whose war crimes were also outlined in the *Not Since 1917* series.

The Warburg family almost certainly derived their surname from the town they emigrated to - Warburg. The town of Warburg was annexed by Prussia in 1802, however their original name was Del Banco, or “the Bank”, which was derived from their Venetian past:

Asher Meshullam, Italianised as Anselmo Del Banco (died 1532), is recognised as the head of the Warburg family and as a leading member of the Venetian Jewish community during the crucial years of the Ghetto’s creation. In fact, in February of 1510 he became responsible for the distribution of the tax burden due to the Jews. Later, in 1559 the Del Banco family decided to leave the city and move to Warburg (near Kassel in Hesse, central Germany), where they adopted the name of the city as their new last name.

33

The Altona and Danish branch of the Del Banco family kept the surname, while some adopted the surname of the town they had moved to; Warburg. What is more interesting, is their 11th century Venetian origins, whereby Venice had developed into a powerful mega trading-center:

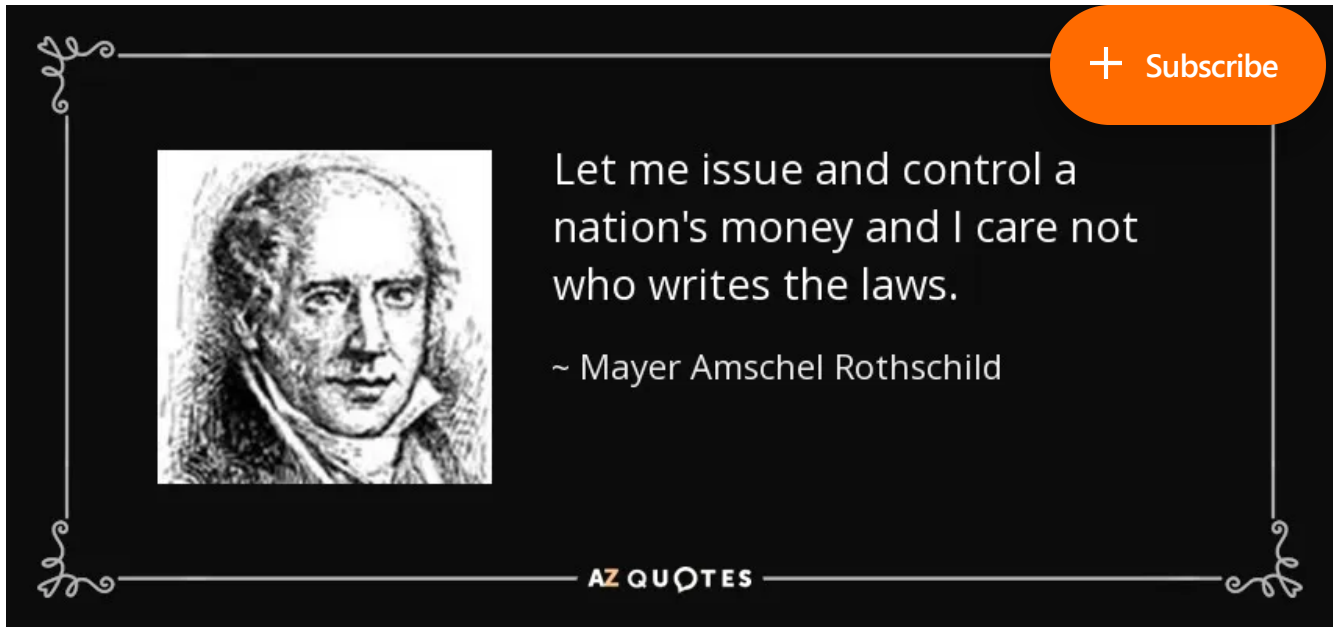
Venice was once one of the greatest trading powers in European history. Venice was the European end of the Silk Road trade route which moved goods all the way from China, and consequently was a cosmopolitan city, a true melting pot.

34

The origins of the Warburgs was in a city state that had perfected the art of trade over many centuries.

The Rothschilds

Perhaps the most famous of all banking dynasties is the Rothschilds. The founding father of the Rothschild dynasty, Mayer Amschel, infamously stated:



This was a powerful statement, but Mayer Amschel was in no position to control any nation's money at the time. He was simply admiring the most powerful man of his day, Frederick the Great, and his establishment of the Royal Main Bank. The control Mayer Amschel was referring to was Frederick's:

The most important challenge of the Prussian Bank was the establishment of an issuing monopoly of money in order to assert itself against other issuing banks in the smaller neighboring countries. In 1856 the bank finally received an unrestricted right to issue, and the competing banks were reduced in importance by political decisions, including a ban on foreign currency.

On January 1, 1876, it was incorporated into the newly established Reichsbank.

35

However, the dynasty of the Rothschilds did not begin with banking; it began with trade:

Mayer Rothschild learned business at a young age. His father, Amschel Moses Rothschild, dealt in silk cloth and exchanged currency. One of Mayer's first jobs was sorting coins acquired through Frankfurt's semi-annual trade fairs, which attracted buyers and sellers throughout the region. ^[6]

36

Slowly, the Rothschilds built their empire from trade, which later included foreign exchange. As their trading empire grew, the move into banking was a 'fait accompli'.

The infamy of the Rothschild dynasty knows no bounds. Their escapades during Waterloo, dealings with the Bank of England, and many other historical events are a primary focus of modern banking history. Even today, Lynn Forester de Rothschild is working with Pope Francis to implement their vision of “Inclusive Capitalism”.

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<https://www.inclusivecapitalism.com/about/>

As we are discovering, “Inclusive Capitalism” is anything but inclusive. Unless you comply with their vision and mandates, you will be excluded.

(Note: If you wish to discover more about the pope, the Dutch Royal family and the Nazis, please read our article, ***The Prussian Pontiff***)

When the sons of Mayer Amschel dispersed throughout Europe, it was Nathan Mayer Rothschild who moved to London, adding enormously to the family’s wealth and power. Starting out as a

textile merchant in Manchester, it did not take long before Nathan was trading on the exchange and securities.

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In the early years, they were in fierce competition with the likes of Barings Bank. However, in 1817, their meteoric rise really began when they started making huge foreign loans to nation states and kingdoms around the globe. Perhaps unsurprisingly, their first major client was Prussia:

Foreign Loans.

(3) As early as Feb. 5, 1817, the Rothschilds had taken up a Prussian loan of 1,500,000 gulden at 5 per cent; and by the end of the following year the brothers in their collective capacity were reported to be the richest firm in Europe; though they had not conducted any of the great loans of the preceding three years. Ehrenberg, therefore, thinks that they must have gained their fortune by speculating in the loans issued under the auspices of the Barings, probably by "bearing" operations which were so successful that they forced the governments concerned to allow the Rothschilds to participate in any future loans.

Year.	Country.	Amount.
1817	Prussia	1,500,000 gulden.
1818	"	£5,000,000

37

Bankers Everywhere

With the birth of 'letters of credit' and its efficient administration using double-entry bookkeeping, Europe embarked on the greatest economic expansion ever in human history. The incentive to discover and secure trading routes led to the founding of many colonies throughout the world. The goods that were brought into Europe delivered enormous profits to the traders and merchants participating in these ventures

However, it was the letter of credit that allowed traders to receive payment for their goods at a later date, rather than demand an upfront payment in gold or silver, that ensured demand for imports remained high. This was akin to creating money out of thin air, and guaranteed that prices of imported goods would remain high despite them flooding into Europe. A wealthy merchant or trader, therefore, could amass huge fortunes by granting credit to customers willing

to buy their goods but who did not have the immediate means to pay. It was the
“one man’s wealth becoming another man’s debt”.

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As Europe began its worldwide expansion, it was also being flooded with debt. The successful merchant or trading house would be flat-out administrating all the letters of credit in their portfolio, which would mark their logical progression into banking. Those with the ability to create money out of nothing would see the wealth of Europe gradually centralize into their hands, while the burden of debt would spread throughout society. Trade merchants had become merchant-bankers.

Despite the rise of the banking dynasties of Medici, Berenberg, Warburg, Rothschild and the Swabian houses of Escher, Rahn, Schutlhess and Bodmer, we are to believe that during the 12th-17th centuries the Hanseatic League, the most powerful trading block in human history, simply just faded away. Did the Hanseatic League truly disappear, or did it join the great Prussian transition into invisibility?

Hanseatic Banking Transformation

While almost every major trading house in Europe from the 15th century onwards progressed into banking, accumulating colossal wealth and power, it is hard to fathom that the largest and most powerful trading block in history simply dwindled into obscurity. There are several questions that deserve to be explored through the #PrussiaGate lens:

- Were the members of the Hanseatic League stupid and unable to see the enormous financial opportunity that letters of credit and double-entry bookkeeping offered?
- Did the Thirty Years War really destroy every facet of their trading empire?
- Did the 1666 Fire of London, which burnt their headquarters to the ground, truly mark the end of 500 years of trading dominance?

The first point to make is that members of the Hanseatic League were far from stupid. They were traders who took a pragmatic approach to everything. If another system proved better than their own, they would have immediately adopted it. Indeed, they were already exploring “sophisticated payment mechanisms”:

A medieval European union: why the Hanseatic League still matters

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Until the rise of nationalism brought it down, the Hanseatic League was one of the most successful trading blocs in history – a union of towns and merchants' guilds that dominated northern European trade in the medieval period. The League's innovative methods included information-sharing and sophisticated payment mechanisms. And if that didn't work? Well, it could always turn to brute force.

38

The Hanseatic League is likened to a medieval EU? It was the rise of nationalism that brought it down? This is certainly an interesting idea in the context of today's monstrous European Union. One of the darlings of the EU, Angela Merkel, had no time for nationalism during her political tenure, especially with respect to the nation she led for 16 years:

Angela Merkel's disrespect for the German flag



(0:11 seconds)

Was Angela showing her allegiance to a force other than Germany? Perhaps a
some kind of neo-Hanseatic Helga?

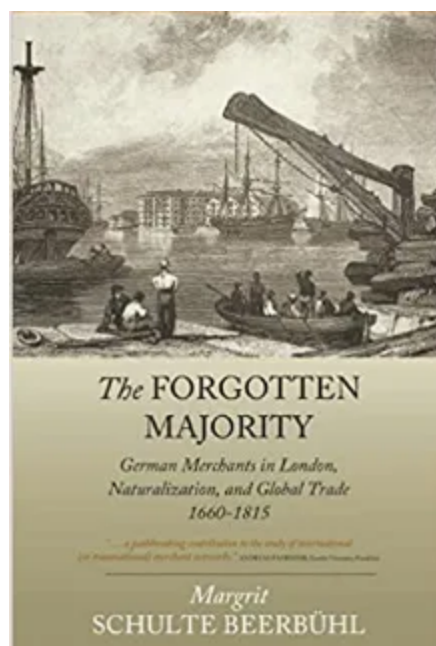
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The Hanseatic League was known for its innovation and sophistication. The claim by conventional history that the League did not keep up with the times is, to be blunt, complete bullshit. More likely, they were ahead of the game.

We already know that the Berenberg banking dynasty, the oldest merchant bank in the world, originated from the Hanseatic League. Their rise in wealth and power was partly due to their cooperation with the German-British Barings Bank; once known as the “6th Great Power of Europe”.

If the Berenberg’s were able to transform their enterprises into banking, forming one of the largest London banks in history, is it possible that other Hanseatic trading houses followed suit?

The Forgotten Majority



The “forgotten majority” of German merchants in London between the end of the Hanseatic League and the end of the Napoleonic Wars became the largest mercantile Christian immigrant group in the eighteenth century. Using previously neglected and little used evidence, this book assesses the causes of their migration, the establishment of their businesses in the capital, and the global reach of the enterprises. As the acquisition of British nationality was the admission ticket to Britain’s commercial empire, it investigates the

commercial function of British naturalization policy in the early modern period, considering the risks of failure and chance for a new beginning in a foreign land. As more German merchants integrated into British commercial society, they contributed to London becoming the leading place of exchange between the European continent, Russia, and the New World.³⁹

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If it was not for this fascinating book outlining the naturalization of German families into England, the conventional story of the demise of the Hanseatic League is believable. The *Forgotten Majority*, however, provides facts and figures that illuminate a very different possibility.

So far, we have shown how some of the most powerful families in Europe derived their wealth from trade, commerce, eventually morphing into banking dynasties. For nearly 500 years, the merchant families of the Hanseatic League dominated the economic landscape of Europe. It appears they did not disappear at all. Instead, they moved to London:

London's German Trade Houses

City directories are one of the key sources in tracing the development of German trade houses in London. These directories attest to how the foreign houses in London began (and to some extent, how they ended), how they grew, and when they were passed on to the next generation. German trade houses in England often were part of much larger international trade networks, reciprocally dependent on and interacting with branches abroad. As far as the sources allow, we shall explore that context. The international scale of German trade houses reveals how much they contributed to the internationalization of trade in an era of mercantilist, nationally protectionist economic policy.

40

Moving from Germany to London could only be achieved by the wealthy and the well-connected. Far from a one-off mission, wealthy German merchant families developed a system of multi-generational migration:

Chain Migration, Successors, and Transnational N

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German merchant migration behavior between 1660 and about 1815 shows clear elements of chain migration. One generation after another sent young merchants to England in pursuit of lasting access to the imperial market and to London's finance sector.

The Amsinck and Rucker families from Hamburg clearly practiced chain migration. Four members of the Amsinck family were naturalized between 1710 and 1779. Nine members of Hamburg's merchant and senator family Rucker (Figure 2) applied for naturalization between 1745 and 1806.

41

There are overwhelming records of German merchant families sending their own to England, whereby they expanded their trading enterprises and eventually became naturalized English citizens. Voguell, Amyand, Siebel, Steinman, Amsinck and Rucker are just a few. The Rucker's became one of the most successful trading houses in England.



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Figure 3. The Rucker Family Empire, eighteenth–nineteenth centuries.

42

In order to become less obvious, many naturalized Germans began to “Anglocize” their surnames and disappear into British society. This activity was not the work of a bunch of desperate German migrants seeking a better life. This was perhaps the most sophisticated and innovative infiltration of a nation ever undertaken, by the wealthiest merchants of the day. The Hanseatic League never died, it simply transformed:

The Rise and Organization of Early “Merchant E

[+ Subscribe](#)

In a study on England’s international trade houses, Stanley Chapman calls trading and banking houses “international” as soon as they operated simultaneously in two or more countries. Trade dynasties of that nature had already existed in medieval times, but what was new about England’s international trade houses, according to Chapman, was that they sent family members to reside permanently in the world’s leading trade centers.¹²⁴ Following Chapman’s definition, all German merchant houses in London after 1660 fall into that category. The German merchants’ patterns of chain migration, their endeavors to secure successors and preserve their branches, and not least their propensity to be naturalized, all indicate that these were not traveling salesmen or family members sent abroad merely for training.

The structure of these nascent international family trade houses was not that of an entirely novel kind of enterprise, but one that can to some extent be traced back to the era of the Hanseatic League.¹²⁵

43

Merchant families of the Hanseatic League became the “forgotten majority” in the history of Britain. Their wealth and innovation in trade and finance ensured London became the pre-eminent trading center of the world:

Research into English naturalization law and practices produced surprising findings about the economic function behind them. This led in turn to the discovery of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries’ forgotten majority of German merchants in London. Traces began to emerge of just how closely immigration, naturalization, and individual merchant interests were linked to Britain’s imperial and hegemonic ends. National goals and immigrant aspirations converged to contribute to Britain’s rise.

44

With evidence that the Hanseatic League was now the “invisible enemy”, we are compelled to explore how far German nobility may have penetrated Britain?

The Oranges of the Glorious Revolution and the Bank of England

“The Forgotten Majority” compiles records of German immigration into England. It is hard to ascertain the scale of migration of Germans before this period, however, we can assume that some wealthy German merchant families of the Hanseatic League were in England before 1660.

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To what extent did this migration influence the future of Great Britain?

British Civil Wars

The Civil Wars (1642-51) were primarily disputes between Crown and Parliament about how England, Scotland and Ireland should be governed. But they also had religious and social dimensions as people sought answers in a time of turmoil. The wars witnessed the creation of the first national standing army, which had important implications for domestic politics.

45

The imposition of a ‘standing army’ is notable, as it was a staunch Prussian tradition. Britain was slowly mobilizing into a Prussian structure. The chaos that was engulfing Britain throughout the 17th century led to the bloodless *Glorious Revolution of 1688*, which saw the accession of the Prince of Orange, William III and Mary II to the English throne.

Notably, about 40 years prior, the Prussian Hohenzollern family became consolidated with the House of Orange, via marriage:

“The royal families of the Hohenzollern and Orange have been connected to each other by marriages since 1646. Wilhelm II was therefore allowed the title Prince of Orange.

Portraits can be found in both the vestibule and the library of Friedrich Wilhelm von Brandenburg (1640-1688), also known as the Great Elector, and his wife Louise Henriette of Orange-Nassau. Friedrich Wilhelm von Brandenburg was the first Hohenzollern to marry a Princess of Orange. Louise Henriette of Orange was a daughter of Frederik Hendrik, Prince of Orange, a son of William of Orange. Over time, the link between these two royal families was consolidated by further marriages...”⁴⁶

The reign of William of Orange lasted until 1702. During his reign he managed to create some of the most significant institutions in British history; the Bank of England:

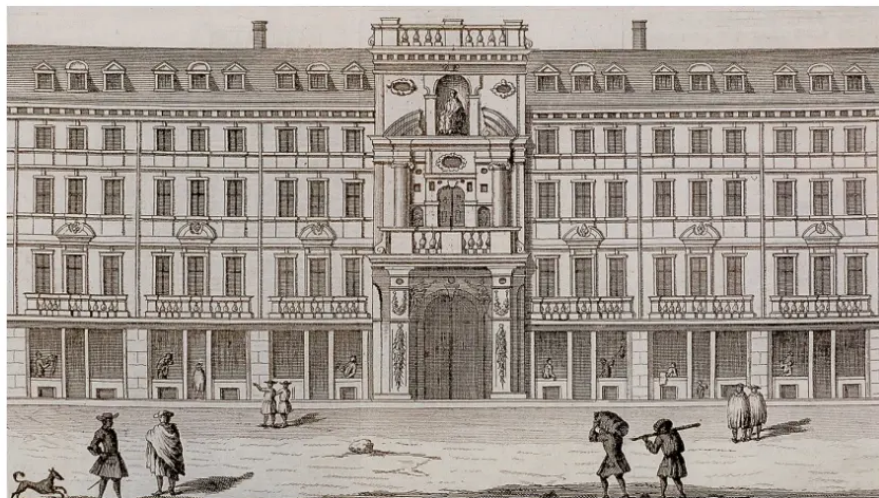
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27 July 1694: the Bank of England is created by Royal Charter

In return for a loan of £1.2m to rebuild the country's finances, King William III granted a Royal Charter to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England on this day in 1694.



by: [Ben Judge](#) © 27 JUL 2020



47

The loan of 1.2 million pounds comprised of a list of shareholders who pledged capital to the bank. How many of these were descendants of German merchants, we may never know. What we do know is that the great expansion of the British Empire took on new vigour once the Bank of England was established.

When William III of Orange died in 1702, the reigns of power would go to Queen Anne. However, prior to her arrival, a world-changing Act was passed into law, completing the reign of the Prince of Orange:

A year before Anne had come to power, however, the Act of Settlement 1701 was passed, which confirmed a provision in the Bill of Rights that the throne would not pass into the hands of a Roman Catholic, or a ruler with a **Roman Catholic** spouse.

48

From that point on, German nobility have held the British Crown.

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UPDATED 1 JUNE, 2020 - 14:01 DHWTY

How the German House of Hanover ruled Britain for 200 Years

The House of Hanover (formally known as the House of Brunswick-Lüneburg, Hanover line) is a German royal house that came to rule Great Britain.

49

The House of Hanover was an extremely powerful noble family in Germany. They presided over the cities of Brunswick (Braunschweig in German) and Lüneburg, which were both powerful Hanseatic trading centers:

Hanseatic city Braunschweig

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Braunschweig with its approximately 250.000 inhabitants is the biggest city in the area between Hanover and Berlin and the centre of the region Eastern Lower Saxony. Braunschweig's history is closely linked with that of the Guelphs. Braunschweig became the residence of the Guelph Duke Henry the Lion and was later declared Emperor's City under Otto IV, thus developing into one of the most important German trade centres in Middle Europe.

Hanseatic city Lüneburg

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In 9th century at latest, a settlement developed between Kalkberg and Ilmenau. It was first mentioned in script in 956, together with saline, monastery and fort. The situation on a river crossing protected by the fort and with an important production site determined the further development of the place. In 1247, the process of town building was formally finalized when the duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg granted the settlement a town privilege.

51

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain morphed into the most powerful economic, maritime and colonial power of the era. All of this was achieved under the watchful-eye of a monarch with heritage to the Hanseatic League and the Bank of England, established by William of Orange.

When the Hanover dynasty lost control of the British Crown, they were replaced by the House of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. In the *Not Since 1917* series, we showed that in 1917 the Crown quietly changed their name to the House of Windsor. More important were the Crown's family ties to the Hohenzollerns; the kings of Prussia, the Emperors of Germany, and the princes of Orange:

At the head of the British Kingdom ruled the unremarkable George V, his cousin Wilhelm II was the German Emperor and the King of Prussia.

52

Becoming Prussian

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During the 12th Century, the Holy Roman Empire granted certain privileges and rights that changed the world forever. The notable recipients were the Hanse and the Hohenzollern regions:

- The Hanse cities received exemptions and privileges from the Holy Roman Emperor with respect to trade. The Hanseatic League began to form, and by 1226, Emperor Frederick II granted them the status of “Imperial free cities”.
- Emperor Henry VI, Frederick II’s father, had earlier granted the House of Hohenzollern their first noble title, in 1192. They were known as the Burgraviate of Nuremberg.

The rise of the Hanseatic League was beyond anything seen before. The monopolization of Baltic trade afforded them imperial-like power. Any kingdom that argued with their terms of trade would find themselves cut off from the supply chain and plunged into depression and famine, before being attacked by the Hanseatic military. The League proved that those who control trade, hold the power.

It is alleged that the 1666 Great Fire of London destroyed the Hanse Steelyard, marking the end of the Hanseatic League. However, #PrussiaGate contends that not only did wealthy German merchant families continue their pattern of systemic chain migration and naturalization into England, but established some of the most powerful trading houses in London.

Only a few decades after 1666, William III of Orange took over the British Crown in the Glorious Revolution. He was a Dutchman by birth. If there is any doubting where the loyalties of the House of Orange lay, the Dutch national anthem provides clarity:

Dutch National Anthem - William

[+ Subscribe](#)

[1]

**William of Nassau
am I, of German¹ blood.
Loyal to the fatherland
I will remain until I die.
A prince of Orange
am I, free and fearless.
The king of Spain
I have always honoured.²**

53

William presided over the establishment of the Bank of England and also ensured that the British Crown would forever more remain in German hands. The ruling House of Hanover had originated from two powerful Hanseatic city states; Brunswick-Luneburg.

The most successful German trading houses would ultimately become banking oligarchs. The Ruckers, Rothschilds, Barings, Schrodgers, and a host of other families dominated the British banking scene. In coordination with the British Crown, the Bank of England and the mercantilist East India Company, Britain experienced a trading boom and gained military and economic supremacy throughout the world.

The mercantilist practices of the British Empire were eerily reminiscent of the Hanseatic League, centuries before. Given the level of infiltration we have thus far presented, this should not be surprising. However, their mercantilist oppression was upended when a group of colonialists on the other side of the Atlantic discovered the meaning and value of, “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”:

Mercantilism was an economic theory followed by England that helped lead to the implementation of policies that contributed to the unrest in the American Colonies and to the American Revolution and American Revolutionary War.

54

Regardless, most of the Western world's trade was in the hands of the British, financed and controlled by private banking houses and central banks. Almost all of these, it appears, appear to have originated from, were controlled by, or loyal to, the houses of German nobility. The Hohenzollerns would soon be placed at the top of all German nobility.

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Around the same time the Hanseatic League disappeared from public view, the Hohenzollerns began their meteoric rise to power. After Otto von Bismarck's famous 'Blood and Iron' speech, Prussia embarked on the unification of Germany:

- The first war conquered Schleswig-Holstein, seizing the original capital of the Hanseatic League - Lubeck.
- The second war defeated Austria-Hungary and with that they annexed Hanover.
- The third war crushed France, united the rest of the German provinces behind Prussia, and in 1871 Wilhelm I was crowned the Emperor of Germany at the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles.

All German houses were now loyal to the Emperor, the king of Prussia and prince of Orange.

When we consider the British and Dutch monarchs, the private banking oligarchs, and particularly the global network of central banking that has taken control of the world's money supply, the crowning of Wilhelm I in 1871 is more significant than we perhaps realize.

As we have shown previously, much more happened in 1871, which all served to empower the German Emperor.

When Paul Warburg arrived in America in 1897 and embarked on a successful mission to install the US Federal Reserve, the Prussification of America was completed.

As we look around today we see a world flooded with central bank debt, a complex matrix of globalist corporations, and a Swabian-based ReichsWEF openly touting and coordinating the destruction of humanity and their natural rights to freedom. We cannot but help look in awe at history and the Hanseatic League that preceded it.

If the Hanseatic merchant dynasties became invisible and took control of global trade through centralized banking, anointing Prussia as their invisible leader, we may be getting very close to discovering the 'oranges of the investigation'.

[+ Subscribe](#)

Lübeck Coat-of-Arms

55

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