

The House of Rothschild in Spain, 1812–1941

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Studies in Banking and Financial History

Amongst the ranks of capitalists who drove European industrialisation in the nineteenth century, the Rothschilds where amongst the most dynamic and the most successful. Whilst their business interests were of a global nature, this book explores the specific case of Spain, where the House of Rothschild had extensive investments, particularly in the mining and railway sectors. By exploring crucial questions regarding the structure, extent and impact of the Rothschilds Spanish operations, not only do we learn much more about the working of one of the leading financial institutions and the development of the Spanish economy, but a greater understanding of the broader impact of international finance and the flow of capital in the nineteenth century is achieved.

Contents: Prologue to the English edition; Introduction; Early contacts and failed attempts to set up in Spain, 1812–1833; Liberalism, corruption and war finances.1833–1840; The contradictions of peace: financial problems of the state and the first moves towards modernity, 1840–1855; Financing the railways; Years of financial euphoria and crisis, 1856–1868; The great operations of the sexenio; The Rothschilds' waning importance in public finances, 1874–1900; The industrial investments,1874–1913; The first symptoms of the end of an investment model; The slow journey towards the end of the Rothschild investments in Spain; Fundamentals of the Rothschilds' activities in Spain; The consequences of the Rothschild years, 1812–1941; Appendices; Bibliography; Index.

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