The British Textile Trade in South America in the Nineteenth Century

This is the first work on British textile exports to South America during the nineteenth century. During this period, textiles ranked among the most important manufactures traded in the world market, and Britain was the foremost producer. Thanks to new data, this book demonstrates that British exports to South America were transacted at very high rates during the first decades after independence. This development was due to improvements in the packing of textiles; decreasing costs of production and introduction of free trade in Britain; falling ocean freight rates, marine insurances, and import duties in South America; dramatic improvements in communications; and the introduction of better port facilities. Manuel Llorca-Jaña explores the marketing chain of textile exports to South America and sheds light on South American consumers’ behavior. This book contains the most comprehensive database on Anglo–South American trade during the nineteenth century and fills an important gap in the historiography.

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The British Textile Trade in South America in the Nineteenth Century

MANUEL LLORCA-JAÑA

Universitat Pompeu Fabra and University of Chile
To my wife Ana María and our little one Román;  
always with me, always with you
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Various sections in this book build on material I previously published. In particular, some sections within Chapters 3, 5, and 7 draw on Llorca-Jaña 2010, 2011a, and 2011b, by permission of Pickering & Chatto, and the Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History and Business History, respectively, for which I am very grateful.
Abbreviations

AGSP  Antony Gibbs & Sons papers
AJS   Archivo Judicial de Santiago
AJV   Archivo Judicial de Valparaiso
ANCH  Archivo Nacional de Chile
BDP-RHL Benjamin Davidson papers
BPP   British Parliamentary papers
BT    Board of Trade
BWP   Balfour Williamson Papers at UCL
BWP-LTSB Balfour Williamson letter book at Lloyds
CUST/4 Ledgers of Imports Under Countries
CUST/5 Ledgers of Imports Under Articles
CUST/8 Ledgers of Exports of British Merchandise Under Countries
CUST/9 Ledgers of Exports of British Merchandise Under Articles
FDN   Fielden Brothers papers
FO    Foreign Office
GFDP  George Frederick Dickson papers
GHR   Green, Hodgson and Robinson papers
HC    Baring Brothers papers
HDP   Hugh Dallas papers
HPEL  Huth papers, English letters at UCL
HPGL  Huth papers at Guildhall Library
JAP   John Anderton papers
LA    Latin America
LSE   London School of Economics
NA    National Archives, Kew
OCE   Oficina Central de Estadística
OWN   Owen Owens & Son papers

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**Abbreviations**

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Places and Spellings

All references to “Santiago” refer to “Santiago de Chile.”

The term Southern Cone means the modern countries of Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile.

The term Latin America means the territory from the Rio Bravo to Patagonia, including all the Caribbean islands, Mexico, all Central America, and all South America.

The use of “America” or “American” to refer to “the United States of America” or its citizens was avoided. The term used, instead, is “the United States,” except for the American Civil War of 1861–1865.

All figures in sterling pounds are expressed in decimal pounds. That is, figures originally available in guineas, shilling, and old pence (240 pence per pound) were converted into the modern British currency system. Therefore, all figures in pence refer to 100 pence per pound.