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978-1-107-03094-7 - Banking in Crisis: The Rise and Fall of British Banking Stability, 1800 to the Present

John D. Turner

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Banking in Crisis

Can the lessons of the past help us to prevent another banking collapse in the future? This is the first book to tell the story of the rise and fall of British banking stability in the past two centuries, and it sheds new light on why banking systems crash and the factors underpinning banking stability. John Turner shows that there were only two major banking crises in Britain during this time: the crisis of 1825–6 and the Great Crash of 2007–8. Although there were episodic bouts of instability in the interim, the banking system was crisis-free. Why was the British banking system stable for such a long time and why did the British banking system implode in 2008? In answering these questions, the book explores the long-run evolution of bank regulation, the role of the Bank of England, bank rescues and the need to hold shareholders to account.

JOHN D. TURNER is Professor of Finance and Financial History at Queen's University Management School, Queen's University Belfast.

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University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107609860

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First published 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clay, St Ives plc

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

ISBN 978-1-107-03094-7 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-60986-0 Paperback

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Acknowledgements

According to Winston Churchill, writing a book begins as an adventure, turns into a toy, then an amusement, then a mistress, then a master, then a tyrant, and just before you are about to surrender, you decide instead to slay the monster. I understand where Churchill was coming from, but throughout the writing of this book and the decade or more of underlying research, I have received the help and encouragement of family, friends, colleagues, librarians, archivists and countless scholars.

Lawrence H. White of George Mason University introduced me to banking history in his graduate class on money and banking, and he inspired me to take up the study of banking and financial history. Charlie Hickson guided me as a graduate student and later became my mentor and co-author. He taught me to think (and write) logically and introduced me to the powerful ‘last-period problem’. I am indebted to all of my teachers – most particularly my parents, who nurtured my young mind.

As well as having great teachers, I have had the privilege of having great students over the years that stimulated my grey matter. In particular, I am indebted to those students who eventually became my co-authors and peers: Graeme Acheson, Gareth Campbell, Christopher Coyle, Clive Walker, Qing Ye and Wenwen Zhan.

The research that underpins this book benefitted greatly from the hospitality of the Bank of England, where I was a Houblon-Norman Fellow. I thank the trustees of the Houblon-Norman Fund for their support. During my time at the Bank, I benefitted immensely from discussions with Charles Bean, Charles Goodhart, Glenn Hoggarth, Kevin James, Andrew Large, Céline Gondat-Larralde, Hyun Song Shin and Geoffrey Wood. Sarah Millard and Jenny Mountain helped me to negotiate the Bank’s archives and Kath Begley, the Bank’s librarian, was exceptionally helpful in tracking down obscure publications from past eras.

At the conception of this book, I enjoyed the hospitality of Harvard Business School as the Alfred D. Chandler Jr Fellow. I thank the trustees of the fellowship for their financial support. Thanks also go to Walter Friedman, Patrick Fridenson, Geoffrey Jones, Elisabeth Koll, Christina

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x Acknowledgements

Lubinski, Noel Maurer, Aldo Musacchio and Tom Nicholas for the stimulating and friendly intellectual environment they provided.

The research that underpins this book received generous research funding from both the British Academy and the Economic and Social Research Council. I also had great research assistants who assisted me with this book: Jonny McCollum, Peter Neilly and Jill Turner deserve a special mention.

Over the years, I have enjoyed the assistance and insights of many bank archivists. I am particularly indebted to Edwin Green, formerly of HSBC, for his advice and encouragement. The access to archive material at Barclays Bank, Lloyds-TSB, the Royal Bank of Scotland Group and HSBC was very much appreciated. Thanks go to all of the archivists who assisted me, especially Jessie Campbell, Karen Sampson, Lucy Wright and Philip Winterbottom. I thank also the librarians and archivists at Guildhall Library in London for their assistance over the years.

My academy, Queen's University Belfast, supported me during the writing of this book. In particular, Rob Gilles, my Head of School, gave me all of the help an academic could ever want when writing a book.

Several scholars and colleagues read and provided valuable feedback on the book: Graeme Acheson, Vicky Barnes, Graham Brownlow, Gareth Campbell, Chris Colvin, Christopher Coyle, Alan Hanna, Charlie Hickson, Liam Kennedy, Donal McKillop, Owen Sims and Clive Walker. Richard Grossman, Lucy Newton and Cormac Ó Gráda participated in a roundtable workshop on an early version of my manuscript, and I am indebted to them for the meaningful advice they provided. Eve Richards provided valuable proofreading and encouragement on an early draft.

I presented an early overview of my book as a keynote address at the Future Research in Economic and Social History conference at London School of Economics and Political Science in December 2012. My thanks go to Rowena Gray and Paul Sharp, the conference organisers, for the invitation and also to Vincent Bignon, Alan Taylor and Stefano Ugolini for their comments.

This book is the result of an invitation by Luke Samy – then at the Winton Institute for Monetary History at Oxford University – to give a talk on the history of British financial stability. In the audience was Avner Offer, who subsequently invited me to submit a book proposal to Cambridge University Press. I thank Luke and Avner for their kind invitations. Michael Watson at Cambridge University Press has been a very encouraging and helpful editor.

Above the doors of Cambridge University's Cavendish Physics Laboratory is an inscription from Miles Coverdale's 1535 translation of Psalm 111: 'The workes of the LORDE are greate, sought out of all that haue

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pleasure therein'. These words serve as my motto as a social scientist and an economic historian.

Finally, my wife, Karen, and son, Jack, had to endure my near-monastic existence during the writing of this book. Without their unstinting love and support, this book would never have been written. I therefore dedicate this 'slain monster' to them.