

This book brings together the results of fresh scholarly research to present a unique overview of the financial history of The Netherlands from the sixteenth century to the present day. The Netherlands has always occupied a role in international finance way out of proportion with its geographical size. Since the eighteenth century the country has been one of the largest exporters of capital in the world. In addition, several important financial innovations were pioneered in The Netherlands, such as funded public debt, the famous Amsterdam Wisselbank, large public limited companies with transferable shares and securitised international loans. The authors show the evolution of the Dutch financial system during nearly four and a half centuries, and explain this evolution by detailing the close interrelationship between currency policy, public finance and banking.

The book should be of great interest to economic historians in particular and international economists in general. It provides invaluable insights into the financial history of a country which, in many respects, paved the way for others in modern finance.



A financial history of The Netherlands



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edited by

MARJOLEIN 'T HART, JOOST JONKER AND JAN LUITEN VAN ZANDEN





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The Republic of the Seven United Provinces





The Kingdom of the Netherlands