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978-1-107-04628-3 - Economic Development in Early Modern France: The
Privilege of Liberty, 1650–1820
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Economic Development in Early Modern France

Privilege has long been understood as the constitutional basis of Ancien Régime France, legalizing the provision of a variety of rights, powers, and exemptions to some, while denying them to others. In this fascinating new study, however, Jeff Horn reveals that Bourbon officials utilized privilege as an instrument of economic development, freeing some sectors of the economy from preexisting privileges and regulations, while protecting others. He explores both government policies and the innovations of entrepreneurs, workers, inventors, and customers to uncover the lived experience of economic development from the Fronde to the Restoration. He shows how, influenced by Enlightenment thought, the regime increasingly resorted to concepts of liberty to defend privilege as a policy tool. The book offers important new insights into debates about the impact of privilege on early industrialization, comparative economic development, and the outbreak of the French Revolution.

JEFF HORN is Professor of History at Manhattan College.

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Acknowledgments

This book stems from one of *those* conference experiences. At the 2004 Western Society for French History meeting in Lubbock, Texas, I presented a paper on privileged enclaves. The session had a good crowd and almost every single person in the room – led by Suzanne Desan, Dena Goodman, Daryl Hafer, Colin Jones, and Victoria Thompson – told me to write a book about the enclaves. I figured that many smart people couldn't be wrong, so I decided to take their advice. The Western has nurtured this project from the beginning, and I have benefited enormously from the conversations and critiques of my colleagues as I explored parts of my ever-growing subject in talks delivered in 2007–2010 and 2012–2013. Thanks everyone!

A spring 2008 sabbatical from Manhattan College allowed me to begin sustained research on privileged enclaves. As a Scholar-in-Residence in New York University's Faculty Resource Network, while happily ensconced in the bowels of Columbia University's Baker Library, I soon realized that concentrating solely on the enclaves would only scratch the surface of privilege's importance in the early modern economy. Thanks to John Shovlin for pushing me on this issue. Expanding the project's scale and scope was made possible by a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2009 and a summer grant from Manhattan College in 2010. I could not have conducted the additional research in Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, Rouen, and Paris needed to supplement materials gathered for *The Path Not Taken: French Industrialization in the Age of Revolution, 1750–1830* (MIT Press, 2006) and collected while on sabbatical in 2008 without that support. I am particularly grateful to Anne Ward of NYU, Anne Perotin-Dumon at the Archives Nationales, and the entire staff at the Archives de la Chambre de Commerce et Industrie de Marseille-Provence for facilitating my research. Throughout the process, John Gormley, Manhattan College's ILL specialist, tracked down much-needed books.

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My wife Julie doesn't quite understand why I wanted to write another monograph, but she made it possible. Julie, this book is dedicated to you.

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Abbreviations

ACCIMP	Archives de la Chambre de Commerce et Industrie de Marseille-Provence
AD	Archives Départementales de la or du
AM	Archives Municipales de
AN	Archives Nationales de France [CARAN]
BN	Bibliothèque Nationale de France

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