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## The United States, Nicaragua, and World War II, 1939–1941

ANDREW CRAWLEY

in *Somoza and Roosevelt: Good Neighbour Diplomacy in Nicaragua, 1933-1945*

Published in print: 2007 Published Online: January 2010  
Publisher: Oxford University Press  
DOI: 10.1093/  
ISBN: 9780199212651 eISBN: 9780191707315 acprof:oso/9780199212651.003.0007  
Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the declaration of neutrality by the US and the American republics as agreed upon in the Panama Meeting of Foreign Ministers. In the face of war, the policy of good neighbour and non-intervention now became a potential strategic liability. It details the chain of events in the US and Nicaragua during the war. The changing world situation demanded some shift in this approach as the diplomats and military strategists in Washington abruptly had to address a series of concerns in Nicaragua that previously would have received little or no consideration, with Somoza himself as Washington's final source of concern.

## Funding Mechanisms

DAVID HARRISON

in *The Bridges of Medieval England: Transport and Society 400-1800*

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The bulk of the information available about bridges in England in the thousand years from the mid-8th to the mid-18th century relates to the efforts made to maintain and repair them. By the later middle ages, the repair of bridges was financed and organised in a variety of ways. Three main methods of funding bridge construction and maintenance are apparent. The first, wide category consists of methods involving state compulsion. The second method was the imposition of a toll on those crossing the bridge. Finally, the task could be left to private contributions. All general works on medieval bridges give examples

of these methods of funding, but there has been no comprehensive consideration. Nor has there been any attempt to assess the relative contribution each made to keeping the large network of bridges in repair, and how and why it changed over time.

## Company Winding-up in Victorian England

V. Markham Lester

in *Victorian Insolvency: Bankruptcy, Imprisonment for Debt, and Company Winding-up in Nineteenth-Century England*

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Item type: chapter

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This chapter examines the history of English legislation for company winding-up during the 19th century. It suggests that Parliament had anticipated the increase in the number of joint-stock companies with the introduction of limited liability and that it had carefully created procedures for company winding-up. This system became virtually identical to the bankruptcy system in 1980. This chapter analyses the statistics related to company winding-up and estimates that annual losses to shareholders were in the range of two to three percent of paid-up capital.

## The Development of Commercial Politics, 1850–1870

G. R. Searle

in *Entrepreneurial Politics in Mid-Victorian Britain*

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Item type: chapter

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In 1860, many of the provincial Chambers of Commerce in Britain decided to form a federation in order to increase the influence of businessmen on Parliament and the government. With the emergence of the Association of Chambers of Commerce (ACC), a new era in entrepreneurial politics had begun. From modest beginnings, the association quickly made its mark on political life, since despite the patchiness of its geographical spread, it had affiliated to it the Chambers of most of the important industrial and commercial areas, particularly in Yorkshire and the Midlands. ACC saw its own role as being 'a most useful medium of communication between the commercial, manufacturing and trading classes and the government of this country'. This chapter

explores the development of commercial politics in Britain from 1850 to 1870, the decimalization issue, the dispute between businessmen and the legal profession, the issue of patents, and limited liability.

## Criminalizing Fraud: The 1850s

James Taylor

in *Boardroom Scandal: The Criminalization of Company Fraud in Nineteenth-Century Britain*

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Item type: chapter

Anti-fraud legislation in the 1840s was confidently predicted to protect investors. But this chapter shows that revelations in the 1850s demolished this faith. Government-imposed publicity and disclosure was not enough to combat those determined to deceive, while the suspicion grew that unlimited liability, long enforced as the default in the belief that it discouraged fraud, was actually making the problem worse. These new beliefs inspired a series of reforms between 1855 and 1858 which conceded general limited liability, and retreated from the project of prevention. But a simultaneous sequence of banking scandals put pressure on government to take punishment more seriously. Hitherto, only the most egregious types of 'fictitious' company, existing solely on paper, and promoted by confidence tricksters, had been successfully prosecuted. But the hammer blows dealt to the law by the banking failures prompted the government to take significant steps towards the criminalization of fraud.

## Underwriting Risk: The Structure and Organization of Insurance Partnerships in Late Eighteenth-Century Cadiz

Jeremy Baskes

in *Staying Afloat: Risk and Uncertainty in Spanish Atlantic World Trade, 1760-1820*

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The Cadiz-based insurance industry grew dramatically in the 1780s and 1790s as well-to-do merchants formed partnerships to underwrite the risks of oceanic transportation. Chapter 7 explores the financial structure of these newly created partnerships, as well as how their

perceptions of the risks of oceanic trade shaped their business models. Company directors were vested with considerable authority to assess risks and underwrite coverage but always with the goal of diversifying and spreading the risk over as many ships and events as possible.