



Mobilizing Money: How the World's Richest Nations Financed Industrial Growth (Japan-US Center UFJ Bank Monographs on International Financial Markets)

By Caroline Fohlin

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This book examines the origins of modern corporate finance systems during the rapid industrialization period leading up to World War I. The study leads to three sets of conclusions. First, modern financial systems are rooted in the past, are idiosyncratic to specific countries, and are highly path-dependent. Therefore, to understand current financial institutions, we must take stock of the forces at play in the near and distant past: political and regulatory intervention, natural resource endowments, educational institutions, and social and religious beliefs. Second, financial institutions and markets do not create economic growth without significant first steps in industrial development and supporting institutions. The finance-growth relationship also varies over time, as financial and economic developments influence one another and create a feedback mechanism. Third, and most important from the modern policy standpoint, there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to financial system design and industrial development. Having specific types of financial institutions is far less important than developing a strong, stable, and legally protected financial system with a rich diversity of institutions and vibrant markets that can adapt to changing needs.

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Review

"... provocative and stimulating ... In Mobilizing Money, Fohlin contributes powerfully to an important moment in rethinking the history of financial systems."

Mark Loeffler, The Journal of Modern History

About the Author

Caroline Fohlin has served as Research Professor of Economics at The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, since 2005. She previously taught at the California Institute of Technology from 1994 to 2004. Professor Fohlin's research has appeared in journals such as the Journal of Finance, the Journal of Economic History, the Review of Finance, Business History, Cliometrica, Explorations in Economic History and the Economic History Review. She is the author of Finance Capitalism and Germany's Rise to Industrial Power (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and is a research associate at the Center for Japan-US Business and Economic Studies at the Stern School of Business, New York University. Professor Fohlin gave the Bundesbank Lectures in Banking and Finance at the University of Freiburg in 2007 and received the DAAD Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in German and European Studies in 2005.

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