

Spooner

Risks at Sea

Amsterdam Insurance and Maritime Europe, 1766-1780

This book places the marine insurance business of Amsterdam in the wider context of the political economy of Europe during the second half of the eighteenth century. The analysis is based on the simultaneous quotations of premiums for the twenty-two groups of destinations which formed a major part of the commercial matrix of the Netherlands. It considers the operation of the market at two levels. On the one hand, the provision of insurance responded to risk uncertainties in the market: in the 1760s and 1770s, Amsterdam experienced three serious upheavals, in the form of the financial crises of 1763 and 1772-73 and the hostilities leading to American independence and the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War. On the other hand, underwriters accepted risks in situations of structural uncertainty. The book is fully illustrated with graphs and maps and uses a wide range of original documents drawn from archives and libraries in Europe. An appendix provides the basic data of premiums quoted in the price-lists of the market.

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