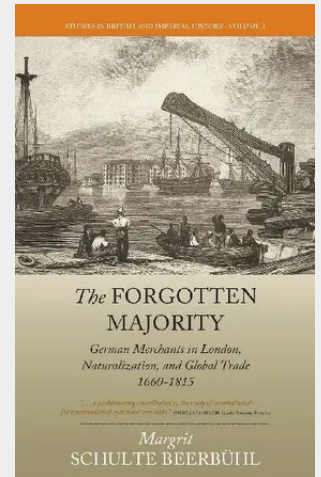


The Forgotten Majority

German Merchants in London, Naturalization, and Global Trade 1660-1815

The "forgotten majority" of German merchants in London between the end of the Hanseatic League and the end of the Napoleonic Wars became the largest mercantile Christian immigrant group in the eighteenth century. Using previously neglected and little used evidence, this book assesses the causes of their migration, the establishment of their businesses in the capital, and the global reach of the enterprises. As the acquisition of British nationality was the admission ticket to Britain's commercial empire, it investigates the commercial function of British naturalization policy in the early modern period, while also considering the risks of failure and chance for a new beginning in a foreign environment. As more German merchants integrated into British commercial society, they contributed to London becoming the leading place of exchange between the European continent, Russia, and the New World.

Assesses the causes of the migration of German merchants to London between the end of the Hanseatic League and the end of the Napoleonic Wars, as well as the establishment of their businesses and the global reach of their enterprises. Investigates the commercial function of British naturalization policy in the early modern period. Considers the risks of failure and their chances for a new beginning in a foreign environment



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