



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Master's degree
programme in
history from the
Middle Age to
Present

Final thesis

*The activity of the mint of Venice as part of the global
circulation of precious metals during the XVII° century: public
debt and economic policies during the Cretan war*

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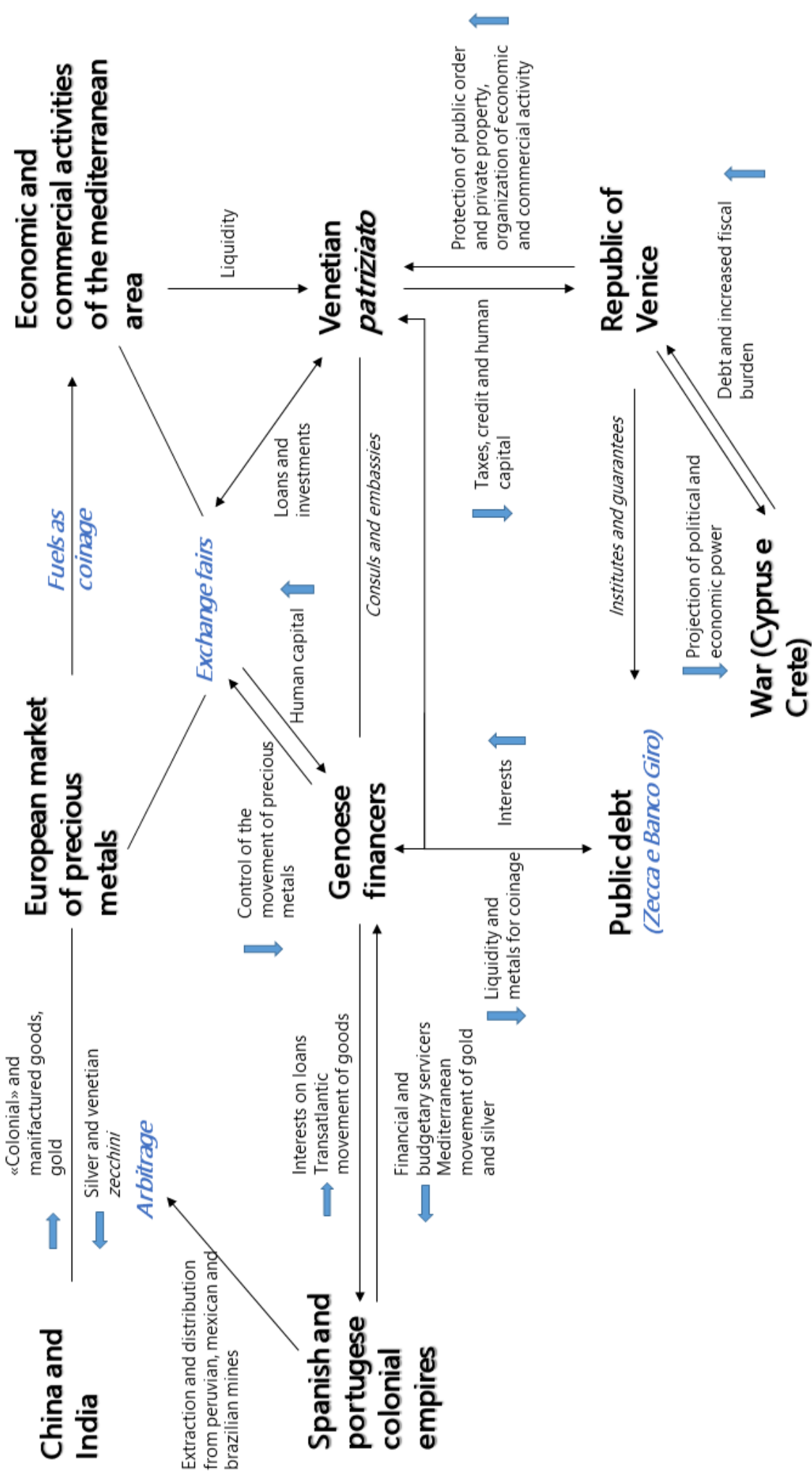
Academic year

2021 / 2022

Abstract

In the first years of the XVII^o century a peculiar commercial circulation reaches global dimensions: in the decade of 1620 precious metals such as gold or silver are valued exchanged at similar rates at Acapulco, Manila, Macao, Seville, Constantinople, and Venice. The colonial empires of Spain and Portugal (temporarily joined in a personal union) are the main vector of movement for the riches of the New World towards both the far east and Europe, fulfilling an ever-growing demand of ever more monetized and interconnected economies on a local and interregional scale.

Purpose of this thesis is reconstructing the weaving of resources, human and organizational capital, and the institution in the economic space of the Old World, with a specific focus on the Mediterranean Sea. The relations between the fiscal and financial structures of the *Serenissima Repubblica* with the budding credit market of Europe, in which Genoese financiers represent an unavoidable middle-man thanks to their critical role in the finance and logistics of the Spanish crown, represent the foremost tool in mobilizing the resources necessary to cover the two main expenditures of the early modern state: war and debt. The period between the fourth and fifth Ottoman-Venetian wars (1570-3 over Cyprus and 1645-69 over Crete) represent a turning point in defining the political, fiscal and identity relations between the ruling *patriziato* and the kaleidoscope of the venetian domains, spurred by the great costs of defending the system of maritime projection of power that thrusts the republic in its key role in the Mediterranean during the late medieval and early modern period.



Institutional framework of the venetian republic

