

FROM THE HISTORY OF LEVANT BONDING COMPANY

ლევანტის საპაიო კომპანიის ისტორიიდან

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Abstract

From the history of the economic development of England in the 16th-18th centuries, it is very important to study the history of the origin, activities, management bodies of one of the bond companies, namely Levant, and evaluate its role in the economic development of the country.

The Levant Company originated in 1581 and maintained its monopoly in the Levant countries until 1753. In the middle Ages, the countries of the Mediterranean Sea - Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and Greece belonged to the countries of the Levant, which were part of the Ottoman Empire.

The Levant Bond Company, together with other companies: East India, West India, Moscow, East, Virginia, played an important role in the economic development of England.

The Levant Company was one of the joint-stock companies, which differed from the early (1506) London Company of Merchant Adventurers.

In addition to the Londoners, the provincial merchants were united in the Levant Company, and also most of them in three or more companies. If it were not for the large capital of the merchants, they would not be able to participate in the trade affairs of several companies at the same time.

A member of the Levant Company had to be a bitumen trader or of seven years' service, under 25 years of age, and had to pay £25, and over that age twice that, £50. Each of them, upon entering the company, had to take an oath that he would not send goods to the Levant, except at his own expense, would not transfer the goods to persons without them, but would only transfer them to the representatives and factors of the company (persons equipped with trust-I.B.).

The charter of 1661 defined the rule of the company's management. According to the charter, the company manager (governor), who had a deputy and assistants, was elected annually at the general meeting. The company also appointed its consuls.

The company had a court or board in London, consisting of a manager, a deputy manager, and twelve directors or assistants, who actually had to live in or around London. They also had a deputy governor in every town and port where members of the company had to be.

It turns out that the Levant shipping company was a rich one, whose geographical area was quite wide and included ports in Turkey, Italy, Spain, France, Catalonia and other countries. The company exported a large quantity of coarse wool, which was in great demand, especially in Turkey,. From where the Janissary corps was sewn to Faraja.

Finally, the English cloth trade in the countries of the Levant left a large profit for England. Also, the import of oriental goods (raw materials) silk, cotton contributed to the development of relevant production, which led to the economic advancement of the country.

Keywords: company, merchant-adventurer, levant, expansion, monopoly, protectionist, charter, governor.

იზოლდა ბელთაძე

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აბსტრაქტი

XVI-XVIII საუკუნეების ინგლისის ეკონომიკური განვითარების ისტორიიდან მეტად მნიშვნელოვანია ერთ-ერთი საპაიო კომპანიის, კერძოდ, ლევანტის წარმოშობის, საქმიანობის, მმართველობის ორგანოების ისტორიის შესწავლა და მისი როლის შეფასება ქვეყნის ეკონომიკურ განვითარებაში.

ლევანტის კომპანია წარმოიშვა 1581 წელს და თავისი მონოპოლია ლევანტის ქვეყნებში 1753 წლამდე შეინარჩუნა. შუა საუკუნეების ეპოქაში ხმელთაშუა ზღვისპირეთის ქვეყნებს - მცირე აზიას, სირიას, პალესტინას, ეგვიპტეს, საბერძნეთს მიაკუთვნებდნენ ლევანტის ქვეყნებს, რომლებიც შედიოდნენ ოსმალეთის იმპერიის შემადგენლობაში.

ლევანტის საპაიო კომპანიაში სხვა კომპანიებთან : ოსტ-ინდოეთის, ვესტ-ინდოეთის, მოსკოვის, აღმოსავლეთის, ვირჯინიის ერთად მნიშვნელოვანი როლი შეასრულეს ინგლისის ეკონომიკურ განვითარებაში.

ლევანტის კომპანია იყო ერთ-ერთი საპაიო ანუ საწილო კომპანია, რომელიც განსხვავდებოდა ლონდონის ადრეული (1506 წ) ვაჭარ-ავანტიურისტთა კომპანიისაგან.

ლევანტის კომპანიაში გაერთიანებული იყვნენ, გარდა ლონდონელებისა პროვინციელი ვაჭრები და ასევე უმეტესობა სამ და მეტ კომპანიაში. ვაჭართა დიდი კაპიტალი რომ არა ისინი ვერ შეძლებდნენ ერთდროულად რამოდენიმე კომპანიის სავაჭრო საქმეებში მონაწილეობას.

ლევანტის კომპანიის წევრი უნდა ყოფილიყო ბითუმად მოვაჭრე ან შვიდწლიანი სტაჟის მქონე, 25 წლამდე ასაკის და უნდა გადაეხადა 25 ფუნტი, ხოლო ამ ასაკზე მეტის მქონეს ორჯერ მეტი- 50 ფუნტი. თითოეულ მათგანს კომპანიაში შესვლისას უნდა დაედო ფიცი, რომ არ გააგზავნიდა საქონელს ლევანტში, საკუთარი ხარჯის გარდა, არ გადასცემდა საქონელს გარეშე პირებს, არამედ გადასცემდა მხოლოდ კომპანიის წარმომადგენლებს და ფაქტორებს (ნდობით აღჭურვილ პირებს-ი.ბ)

1661 წლის წესდებით განსაზღვრული იყო კომპანიის მმართველობის წესი. წესდების მიხედვით, საერთო კრებაზე ყოველწლიურად ირჩევდნენ კომპანიის მმართველს (გუბერნატორს), რომელსაც ჰყავდა მოადგილე და თანაშემწეები. კომპანია ასევე ნიშნავდა თავის კონსულებს.

კომპანიას ჰქონდა სასამართლო ან საბჭო ლონდონში, რომელიც შედგებოდა მენეჯერის, მენეჯერის მოადგილისა და თორმეტი დირექტორისგან ანუ თანაშემწისგან, რომელთაც რეალურად უწევდათ ცხოვრება ლონდონში ან მის შემოგარენში. მათ ასევე ჰყავდათ გამგებლის მოადგილე ყველა ქალაქსა და პორტში, სადაც კომპანიის წევრებს უხდებოდათ ყოფნა.

ირკვევა, რომ ლევანტის საპაიო კომპანია იყო მდიდარი, რომლის გეოგრაფიული არეალიც საკმაოდ ფართო იყო და მოიცავდა: თურქეთის, იტალიის, ესპანეთის, საფრანგეთის, კატალონიის და სხვა ქვეყნების ნავსადგურებს. კომპანიას დიდი რაოდენობით გაჰქონდა უხეში მალდი, რომელზეც, განსაკუთრებით თურქეთში დიდი მოთხოვნა იყო, რომლისგანაც იენიჩართა კორპუსს ფარაჯას უკერავდნენ.

საბოლოოდ, ინგლისური ქსოვილებით ვაჭრობა ლევანტის ქვეყნებში დიდძალ მოგებას უტოვებდა ინგლისს. ასევე აღმოსავლური საქონლის (ნედლეულის) აბრეშუმის, ბამბის შემოტანა ხელს უწყობდა შესაბამისი წარმოების განვითარებას, რამაც განაპირობა ქვეყნის ეკონომიკური დაწინაურება.

საკვანძო სიტყვები: კომპანია, ვაჭარ-ავანტიურისტი, ლევანტი, ექსპანსია, მონოპოლიური, პროტექციონისტური, ქარტია, გუბერნატორი.

Introduction

We aimed to study the role of one of England's subsidiaries, the Levant Company, in the economic development of England in the 16th-18th centuries.

Based on the sources in the previous work, we tried to study the charters of the company, on the basis of which the rules of admission to the company were determined, the issues of trade organization and governing bodies, and the conditions of economic development in England.

We also studied the origin of the Levant Company and the preservation of its monopoly rights, the difference between the Levant Joint Stock Company and the early Merchant-Adventurer Company of London, the charters of 1588, 1592 and 1595, which defined the status and structure of the company, its function as a regulatory company.

An important source "The Early History of the Levant Company" published in London in 1908 helped us to study the above-mentioned issues (3). Also, based on critical analysis, we used the works of different authors: D. Ashley (2), T. Reb (4), M. Yabrova (9), V. Shtokmar (8), M. Osokin (7), A. Morton (6) .Mesheriakova's (4) works. We also used my published work (1).

A number of foreign researchers worked on the Levant Company, but we cannot find a special scientific study on the mentioned topic in the Georgian historiography.

Methods

The presented scientific article is based on the following research methods: causal-comparative analysis, comparative-historical method, empirical analysis, abstraction.

Results

The role of the Levantine Bonding Company was great in the history of the economic development of England in the XVI-XVIII centuries, in finding key markets for English Maud, increasing working capital, which was obtained by selling products imported from the countries of the Levant at exorbitant prices.

Discussion

We set out to study the history of the origins, activities, governing bodies and its role in the economic development of England, the Levant Company, one of England's pawnshops of the 16th-18th centuries.

The Levant Company originated in 1581 and maintained its monopoly until 1753 (Beltadze-Khinikadze, 2009, p.168).

In the middle Ages, the countries of the Mediterranean Sea - Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Greece were considered Levant countries, which were part of the Ottoman Empire (Morton, 1950, p.1)

The Levant Company was a joint-stock company, different from the early London (1506-origin-IB), merchant-adventurer company, which, although it was a single organizational company, but its individual members traded independently and took risks. He himself provided the freight, the cargo

of the ship. During the unsuccessful trade he took the loss, and during the good trade he took the entire profit. In general, trade was individual (Osokin, 1982, p. 193. I. Beltadze, 2009, p. 145). But the company could not afford the high costs of long-distance trade. Only joint-stock companies, which were granted monopoly rights in the territory defined by the charter, were able to do this (Morton, 1950, p. 93).

In addition to the Londoners, provincial merchants were also united in the Levant Company. Also, company merchants were united in three or more companies. If it were not for the large capital of the merchants, they would not be able to participate in the trade affairs of several companies at the same time.

It is interesting how the management of the company was.

The management of the company was determined by the statute (charter), which was approved by the royal authority of England.

Already in 1580, London merchants applied to Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603) with a charter requesting the right to trade in the region, and it was granted again in 1581.

By 1588, the Levant Company was transformed into a regulatory, monopoly company and its status was a joint-stock company.

On January 7, 1592, the company was granted a new charter (in which the new privileges of English merchants were recorded - I.B), and by 1595 it appears as a regulatory company.

On July 12, 1600, English merchants demanded to receive trade privileges again. On December 1, 1601, the Queen agreed to grant the company a new charter of privileges for a period of 15 years, but they only enjoyed this privilege for 2 years, until the accession of King James Stuart (1603-1625) of England.

It turns out that during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, English merchants enjoyed privileges that stemmed from the king's protectionist policy.

The charter defined not only the privileges of merchants, the rules of admission to the company, but also the governing bodies.

April 2, 1661 is the date of the charter that defined the management of the company. According to the charter, the general meeting was supposed to elect the manager (governor) of the company every year, who would have a deputy and assistants. The company also had the right to appoint its own consuls, to punish violators of trade rules by paying a fine of 20 percent of the value of the goods.

Initially, the company had 9 officials: a manager (governor), a deputy who managed the company's finances. An officer in charge of the company's papers, bonds, and keeping the seal, secretary, accountant, beadle. Auditors were later elected. They are first mentioned in 1632 as annually elected officials. (EPSTEIN, 1908, p. 68)

Thomas Law was one of the governors of the Levant Company. He was at the same time the manager of the company of merchant-adventurers. He was re-elected every year and remained so until his death.

It seems that he was a good manager, which was confirmed by the subsequent success of the company. (EPSTEIN, 1908 ,p 69)

Next, in 1623, Mr. Alderman Hamersley was elected. In 1628 he became Lord Mayor of London. At the same time, he was the governor of the Moscow company. He enjoyed great trust in the Levant company for 12 years.

It turns out that Alderman Hammersley was the governor of the Levant Company, the London Company and the Moscow Company at the same time.

During the election for Governor of the Company, Hammersley was one candidate and Alderman Harvey the other. Elections were held by voting, "each person present came to the table, took a ball and put it in a box. The election was won by Alderman Harvey, as he received 26 balls and Hammersley 20." Harvey was elected, holding the office for nine years, and from 1639 to 1640 he was also Lord Mayor.

It turns out that the governor and his deputy were honorary officials.

The list of governors of the Levant Company in the years 1581-1821 is interesting. Although it is not a complete list, we considered it necessary to bring it to us anyway. See Table No. 1

Years	Governors of the Levant Company (1581-1821)
1581–1592	Edward Osborne
1600–1600	Thomas Smith
1605–1623	Thomas Law
1623–1634	Hugh Hammersley
1634 -1643	Henry Garraway
1643–1653	Isaac Pennington

1654–1672	Andrew Rickard
1672–1673	John Joe
1673–1695	The Earl of Berkeley
1695	William Trumbull
1710–1718	Lord Onslow
1718–1735	James Earl of Carnarvon
1736–1766	Earl de Lauor
1766–1772	Earl of Shaftesbury
1772–1776	The Earl of Radnor
1776–1792	Frederick North, Earl of Guildford
1792–1799	Duke of Leeds
1799–1821	Lord Grenville

It turns out that from 1581 to 1821 there were a total of 18 individuals who were governors of the Levant Company.

The company also had to have responsible representatives in the places where it had commercial dealings. Such was the ambassador in Constantinople and the consul, vice-consul in various cities of the Levant. We bring a list of ambassadors from Constantinople and the city of Aleppo.

English ambassadors in Constantinople (in 1582-1762) see an incomplete list. Table No. 2

Years	English Ambassadors at Constantinople (1582-1762)
1672–1681	John Finch

1582–1588	William Harborne
1680-1687	James, Lord Chandos
1684–1686	William Soames
1686–1691	William Trumbull
1690 -1691	William Hussey
1691–1692	William Harbord
1692–1702	Lord William Paget
1700-1717	Robert Sutton
1716–1718	Edward Wortley-Montagu
1742-1762	Samuel Crowley
1672–1681	John Finch

English ambassadors in Aleppo (1580-1772). see an incomplete list. Table No. 3

Years	English ambassadors at Aleppo (1580-1772)
1580–1586	William Barrett
1586–1586	John Eldred
1592–1596	Michael Locke
1596–1596	Thomas Sandys
1596-1597	Ralph Finch

1597–1597	Richard Colthurst
1606–1610	Paul Pindar
1630–1638	John Wandesford
1716–1726	John Purnell
1751–1758	Alexander Drummond
1758–1758	Frances Brown
1770–1772	Francis Brown (Proconsul)
1770–1783	John Abbott
1783–1784	John Abbott (Proconsul)
1588–1597	Edward Barton
1597–1607	Henry Lello
1606–1611	Thomas Glover
1619–1621	John Eyre (or Ayres)
1621 -1628	Thomas Rowe
1627–1638	Peter Wyche
1633–1647	Sackville Crowe
1647–1661	Thomas Bendish
1668-1672	Henage Finch, Earl of Winchills
1668–1672	Daniel Harvey

1672–1681	John Finch
1680–1687	Lord James Chandos
1684–1686	William Soames
1686–1691	William Trumbull
1690 -1691	William Hussey
1691–1692	William Harbord
1692–1702	Lord William Paget
1700-1717	Robert Sutton
1716–1718	Edward Wortley-Montagu
1742-1762	Samuel Crowley

It turns out that in the same period - 1580-1762, a total of 12 persons were appointed as ambassadors in Constantinople, and 33 in the city of Aleppo. The question arises as to what caused the relatively frequent change of ambassadors in the city of Aleppo. It seems that the ambassadors in the city of Aleppo were not able to fulfill their duties properly, and it is possible that this happened.

In addition, the embassy had translators, a treasurer and a preacher as employees.

The first treasurer in Constantinople was Mr. Stringer. His duty was to collect the tax and pay the ambassador's allowance.

In 1661, by charter of King Charles II (1649-1688), the Company was transformed into a political body with legislative authority over English merchants in the Levant. Although the number of members of the company was not limited, it was about 300 on average. The basic rule was as follows: a member of the company had to be a bitumen trader or have seven years of experience. Persons under the age of 25 were admitted to the company if they paid £25, and those over the age of twice that. Each, on entering the company, had to take an oath not to send any goods to the Levant except at his own

expense; did not transfer the goods to persons without it, but only to the company's representatives and factors (trustworthy persons-I,B.)

The Company had a court or board in London, consisting of a manager, a deputy manager, and twelve directors or assistants; who actually had to live in or around London. They also had a deputy governor in every town and port where they were members of the company.

In the 80s of the 16th century, 29 shareholders were named in the charter of the Levant Company. Of these, 12 were from the London Livery Company (Shtokmar, 1962, p.208), and the rest were possibly from provincial towns. M. According to Osokin, it is known that in addition to the Londoners, provincial merchants were also united in the Levant company (Osokin, 1982, p.14).

Company merchants were also united in three or more companies. For example, out of 186 members of the Levant Company, 34 were from the Levant, 33 from both the Levant and East India, and 108 from three or more companies. This proves once again that if it were not for the large capital of the merchants, they would not be able to participate in the trade affairs of several companies at the same time.

For example, Edward Holdman, one of the members of the Levant Company, was at the same time the manager of the East India Company and a member of the Venice Company. He participated in the preparation of Drake's expedition of 1587 and other trade operations. (. (Yabrova, 1983, p.208)

Conclusion

Thus, the importance of the Levant Company was great in the history of the economic development of England in the XVI-XVIII centuries. For English merchants, trade with the countries of the Levant - Asia Minor, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Greece was profitable. Various oriental goods were imported: Silks, Threads, Indigo, Venetian Currants, Nutmegs, Woolen and Cotton Fabrics, Peppers, Velvets, Carpets, &c. The company used the following harbors during trade in Venice and Turkey: City of Venice, Zante, Venetian Kefalonia, Candia, Scio, Constantinople, Alexandretta, Port of Aleppo, Tripoli, Alexandria, Algeria (EPSTEIN, 1908:230)

In addition they traded on the following coasts of France, Spain and Italy: Cartagena (Italy), Alicante (Spain) Barcelona (Catalonia), Valencia (Spain), Marseille (France), Toulon (France), Genoa (Italy), Livorno (Italy), Civitavecchia (Italy), Palermo (Italy), Messina (Italy), Malta (France), Majorca (Spain), Menorca (Spain) and Corsica (France).

The basic rule for admission to the Levant company was as follows: a member of the company had to be a bitumen trader or have seven years of experience. Persons under the age of 25 were admitted to the company if they paid £25, and those over the age of twice that. Each, on entering the company, had to take an oath not to send any goods to the Levant except at his own expense; did not transfer the goods to persons without it, but only to the company's representatives and factors (trustworthy persons- I.B.)

It turns out that one of the most important and rich among the English bond trading companies was the Levant Bond Company, whose trade items were diverse and the geographical area was quite wide. It included the ports of Turkey, Italy, Spain, France, Catalonia and other countries. England exported large quantities of Maud. There was a particularly high demand in Turkey for the English coarse cloth, from which the Janissary corps were made into farajas. In the end, the company gave a lot of profit to the country, which contributed to the economic development of England.

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