AN

ESSAY

ON THE

Eaſt-India TRADE, &c.

THE benefits of trade and commerce are at prefent univerfally acknowledged by all civilized nations; there cannot be an object of greater importance to this kingdom, nor has there been a time, perhaps, when it required to be more ferioufly attended to.

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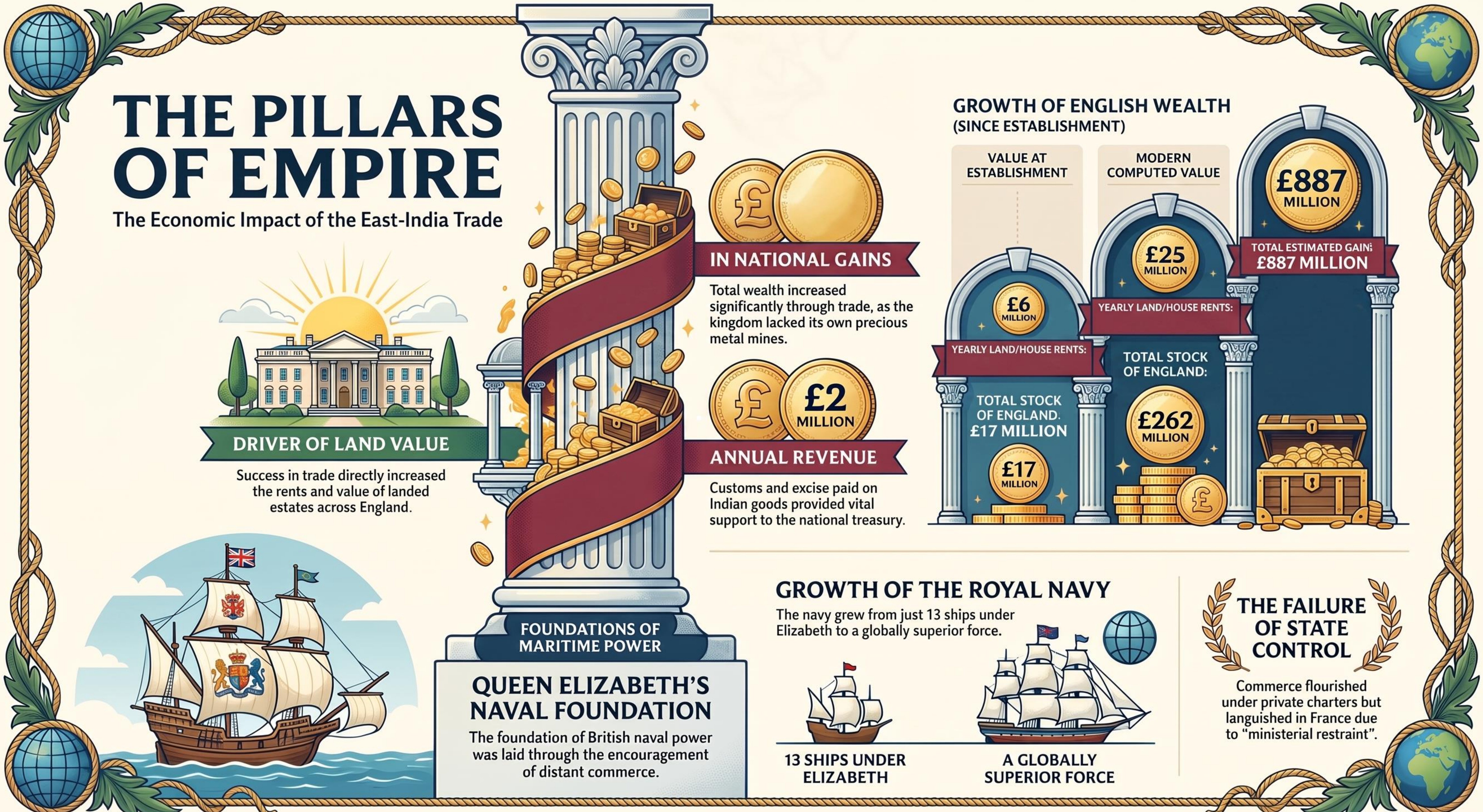
An Essay on the East-India Trade

Deconstructing an 18th-Century Corporate Defense

Published anonymously, this text serves as an impassioned policy brief defending the English East-India Company against government overreach. This deck translates its dense, persuasive rhetoric into modern analytical frameworks.

Criminological Insights

by Dr. Mridul Srivastava


THE PILLARS OF EMPIRE
The Economic Impact of the East-India Trade
DRIVER OF LAND VALUE
Success in trade directly increased the rents and value of landed estates across England.
IN NATIONAL GAINS
Total wealth increased significantly through trade, as the kingdom lacked its own precious metal mines.
£2 MILLION
ANNUAL REVENUE
Customs and excise paid on Indian goods provided vital support to the national treasury.
FOUNDATIONS OF MARITIME POWER
QUEEN ELIZABETH'S NAVAL FOUNDATION
The foundation of British naval power was laid through the encouragement of distant commerce.
GROWTH OF ENGLISH WEALTH (SINCE ESTABLISHMENT)
VALUE AT ESTABLISHMENT
MODERN COMPUTED VALUE
£6 MILLION
YEARLY LAND/HOUSE RENTS:
TOTAL STOCK OF ENGLAND. £17 MILLION
£17 MILLION
£25 MILLION
YEARLY LAND/HOUSE RENTS:
TOTAL STOCK OF ENGLAND:
£262 MILLION
£887 MILLION
TOTAL ESTIMATED GAIN: £887 MILLION
GROWTH OF THE ROYAL NAVY
The navy grew from just 13 ships under Elizabeth to a globally superior force.
13 SHIPS UNDER ELIZABETH
A GLOBALLY SUPERIOR FORCE
THE FAILURE OF STATE CONTROL
Commerce flourished under private charters but languished in France due to "ministerial restraint".

The Threat of Ministerial Control

The Exchequer's Vice

Timeline of Crisis

The Core Concept

EIC proprietors had finally reached a prospect of profitable return after extraordinary difficulties, only to face immediate ministerial intervention.

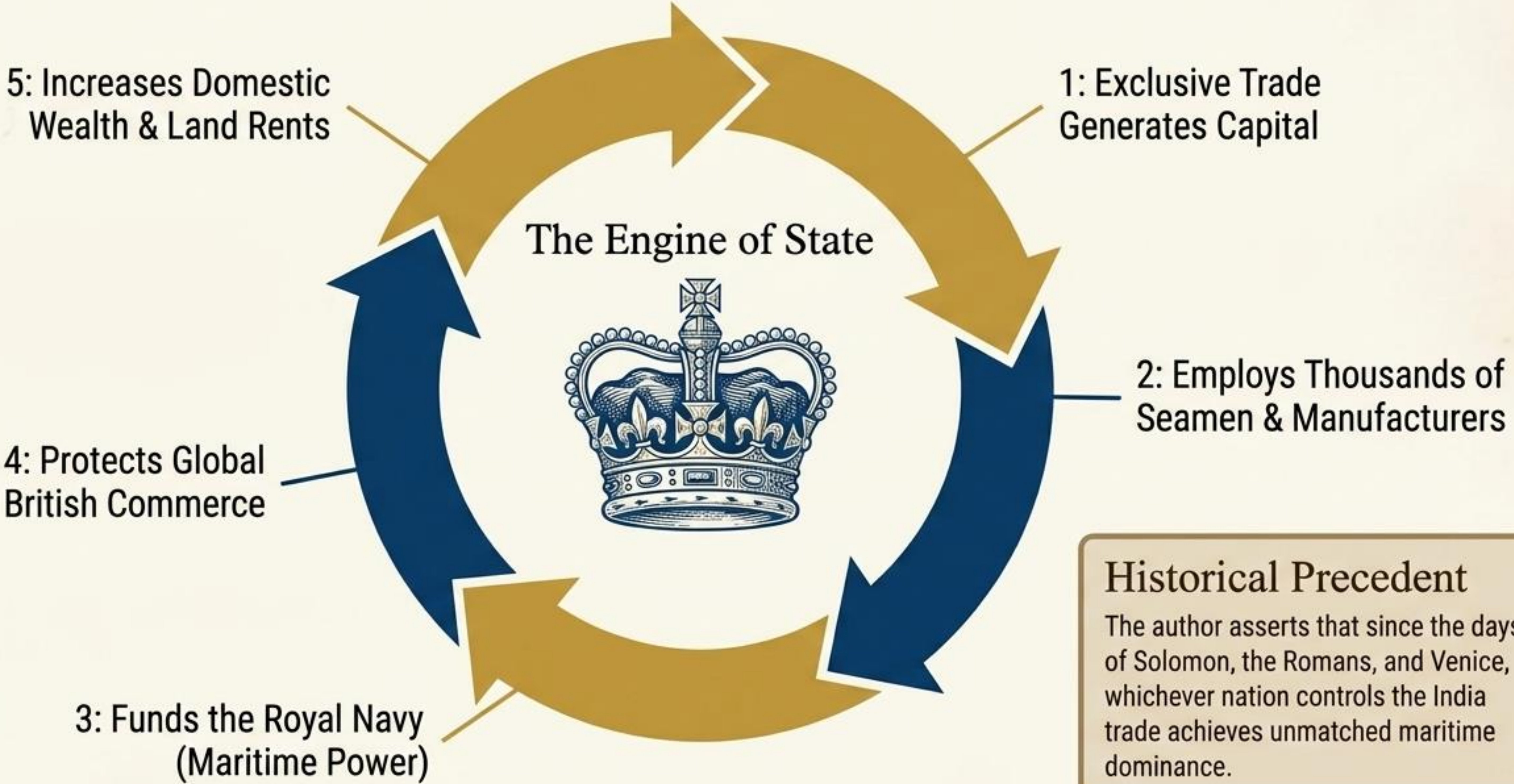
The Mandate

The Chancellor of the Exchequer issued a requisition forbidding the Company to increase dividends until Parliament determined their affairs.

The Outcome

Fearful of losing their Indian acquisitions entirely, the proprietors were forced to relinquish more than half of their profits, in order to preserve the remainder.

The Flywheel of Commerce and Maritime Power

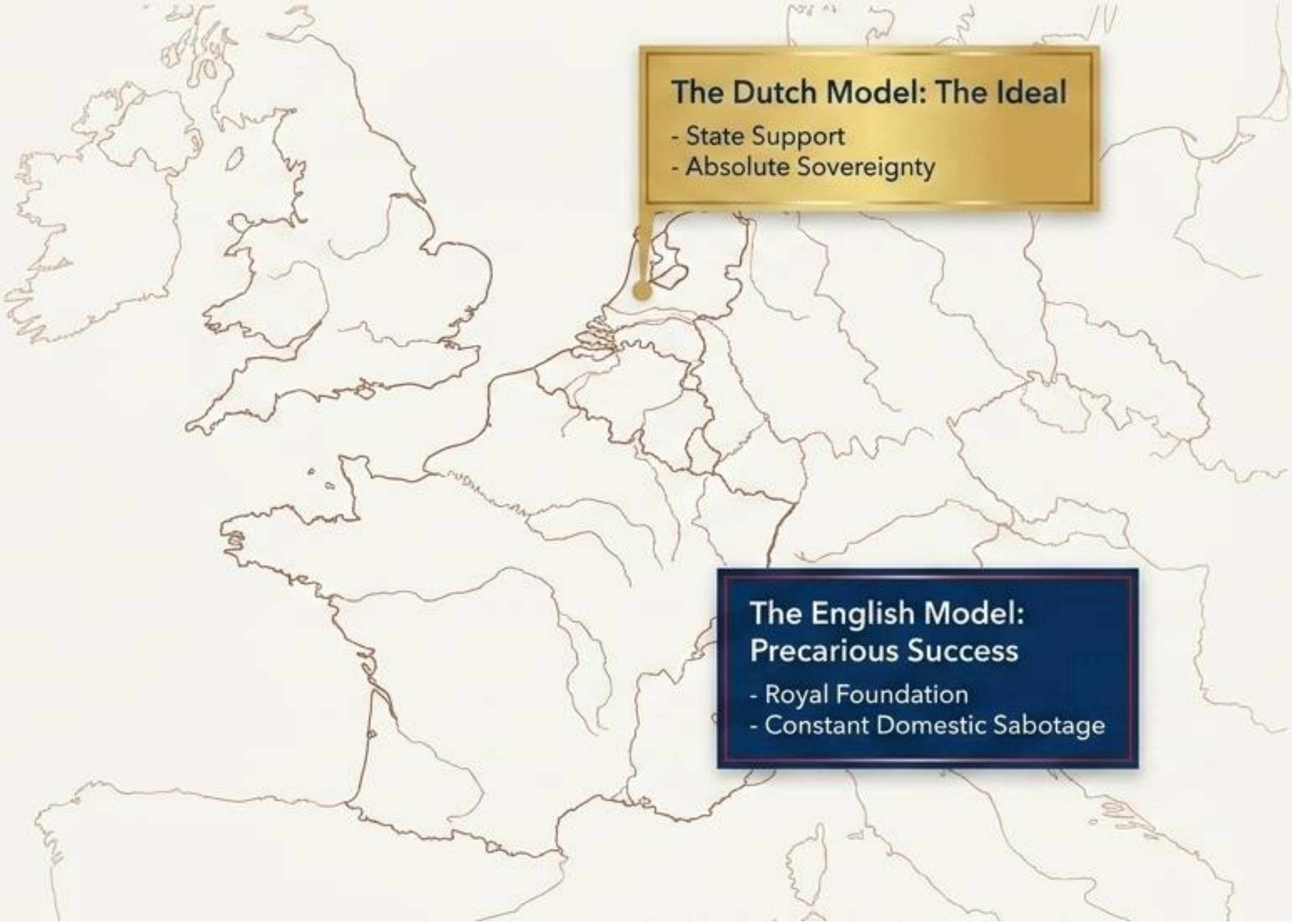


Historical Precedent

The author asserts that since the days of Solomon, the Romans, and Venice, whichever nation controls the India trade achieves unmatched maritime dominance.

A Tale of Three Empires

The success of the East India trade depends entirely on a nation's government and its treatment of the commercial company.



The Dutch Model: State Support Without State Interference

The Control Spectrum

The Foundation

The States General forced independent merchants to unite in 1602 to avoid ruinous competition.

The State Guarantee

Granted absolute sovereignty in India.

The Governor General at Batavia was treated like a monarch.

Protected by state treaties (1609 truce with Spain).

The Return on Autonomy

Over 160 successive years, the Dutch Company paid an average annual dividend of more than 24%, despite heavy state debts and national wars.

The French Model: The Perils of Ministerial Meddling

The Flawed Premise: Viewing a commercial company merely as an "engine of the state" and a source for royal revenue advancement.

Timeline of Ruin

1604-1611: Initial state-directed attempts under Henry IV and Louis XIII fail due to division and lack of proper funding.

Colbert's Plan: Backed by 6 million livres and a 10-year royal guarantee on losses. Ultimately undermined by "farmers general" (tax collectors) who manipulated the minister.

1719 Edict of Union: The Duke of Orleans and John Law absorbed the bankrupt EIC to pay off state paper money debts. Total systemic collapse followed.

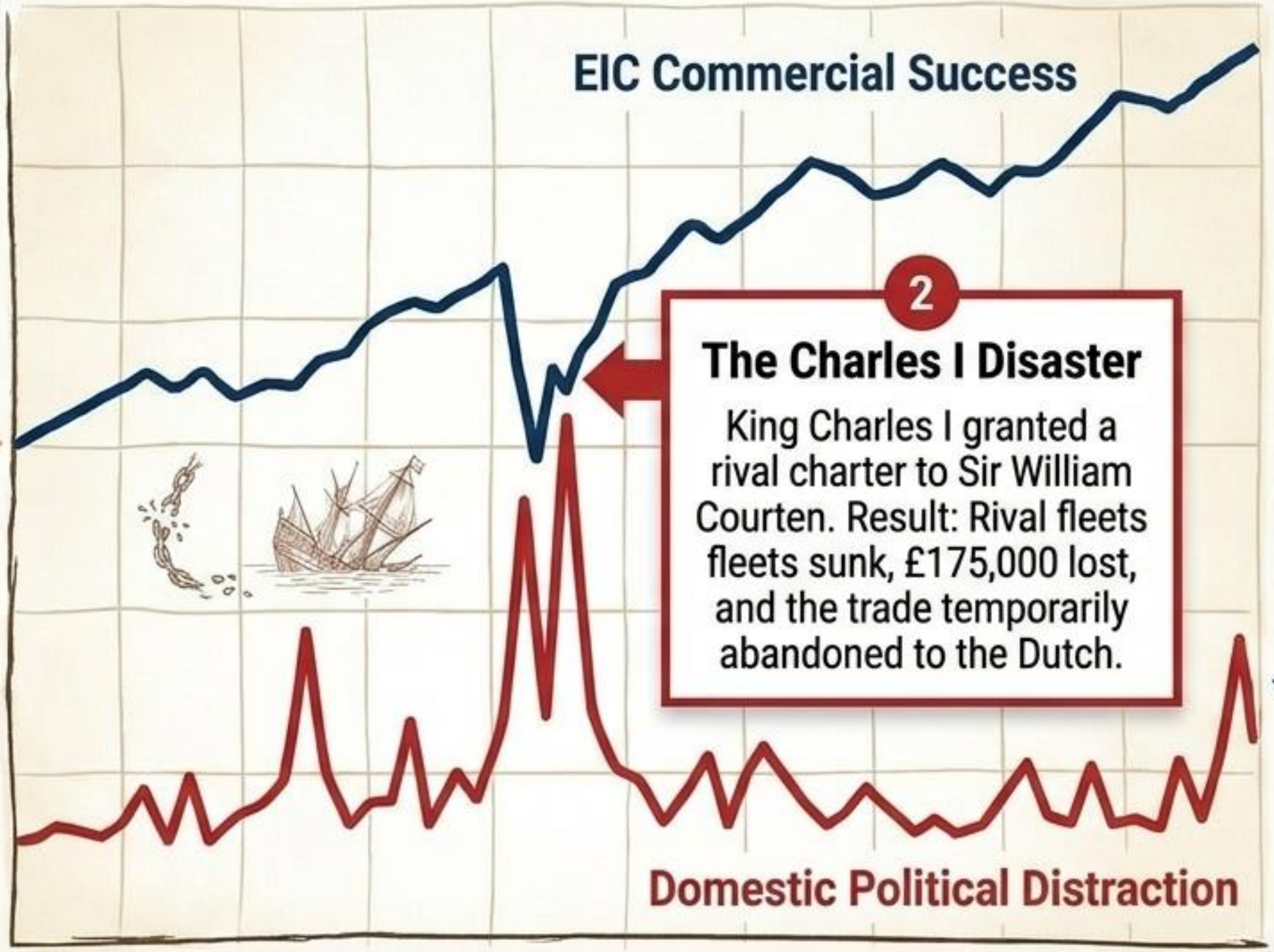
Inevitable Bankruptcy

The English Model: Precarious Success

1

The Elizabethan Foundation

Queen Elizabeth I correctly laid the foundation in 1602, understanding trade's direct link to naval power.



2

The Charles I Disaster

King Charles I granted a rival charter to Sir William Courten. Result: Rival fleets fleets sunk, £175,000 lost, and the trade temporarily abandoned to the Dutch.

3

The Ongoing Tax

Unlike the Dutch, the English Company is forced to pay exorbitant fines to ministers merely to renew its charters, treating commerce as a short-term treasury supply.

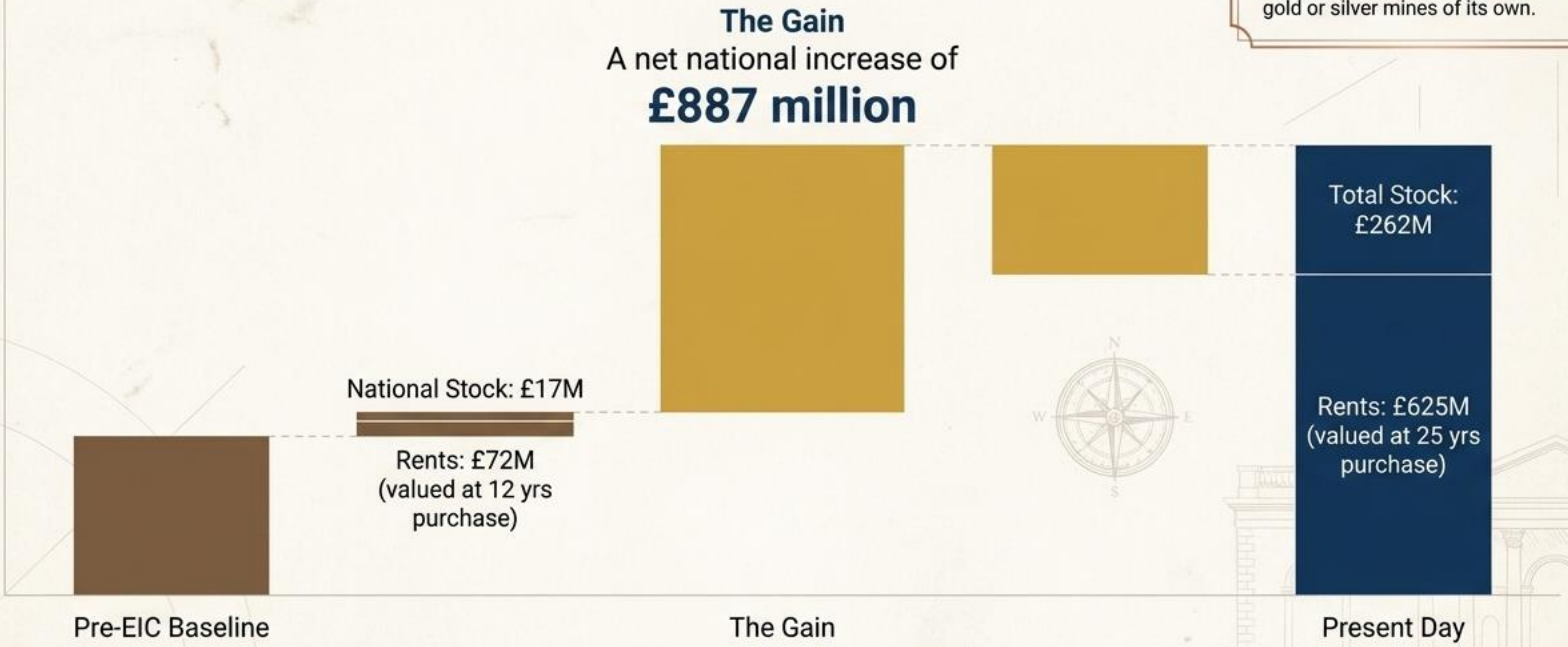
Synthesis: The Governance Matrix

Comparative Governance Matrix			
	THE DUTCH	THE FRENCH	THE ENGLISH
Sovereignty	Absolute	State-Controlled	Precarious / Purchased
Ministerial Interference	None	Constant	Opportunistic
Private Property Status	Held Sacred	Blended with State Debt	Currently Under Threat
Ultimate Outcome	160 Years of 24% Dividends	Repeated Bankruptcies	Global Power, if left alone

Quantifying the Wealth Multiplier

The Davenant Calculation

Dr. Davenant attributes this exponential wealth increase entirely to the East India trade, noting that England possesses no gold or silver mines of its own.



The Revenue Engine: Servicing the Crown’s Debt

The Data:

- Customs and excise paid on India goods amount to roughly £2,000,000 per annum.

The Impact:

- Even a conservative estimate of £1.5M, combined with £400,000 paid directly by the company, is enough to cover the interest on £63 million of the national debt.

The Conclusion: The author argues that an enterprise supporting this much state debt cannot be risked on ‘plausible pretext’ or ministerial greed.

The Public Indictment

A hostile press and “quick-sighted administration” circulated pamphlets to prejudice the public against the EIC’s territorial revenues.

CHARGE I:

The Theft of Birthrights

The EIC is publicly charged with having “robbed the lawful princes of the country of their birth-rights and inheritance.”

CHARGE II:

The Debt of War

The EIC must reimburse the public for government expenses incurred supporting them against the French in the last war.

Defense Part I: The Myth of the 'Lawful Princes'

EIC did not rob lawful hereditary kings. The provinces were governed by Nabobs (appointed viceroys) accountable to the Mogul, overthrown by a violent chain of usurpers.

The Mogul Emperor in Delhi

Souffraz Khan
Appointed Dewan, but fell into extreme debauchery, leaving administration to his panders.

Alli Verdi Khan
A "Tartar adventurer" who kept Souffraz intoxicated, killed him in battle, and seized three provinces through consummate villainy.

Surajad Dowla
The "inhuman grandson". Perpetrated horrid barbarities at Calcutta before being deposed by Lord Clive.

**Conclusion: There was no lawful hereditary right to violate.
The EIC simply removed a chain of violent usurpers.**

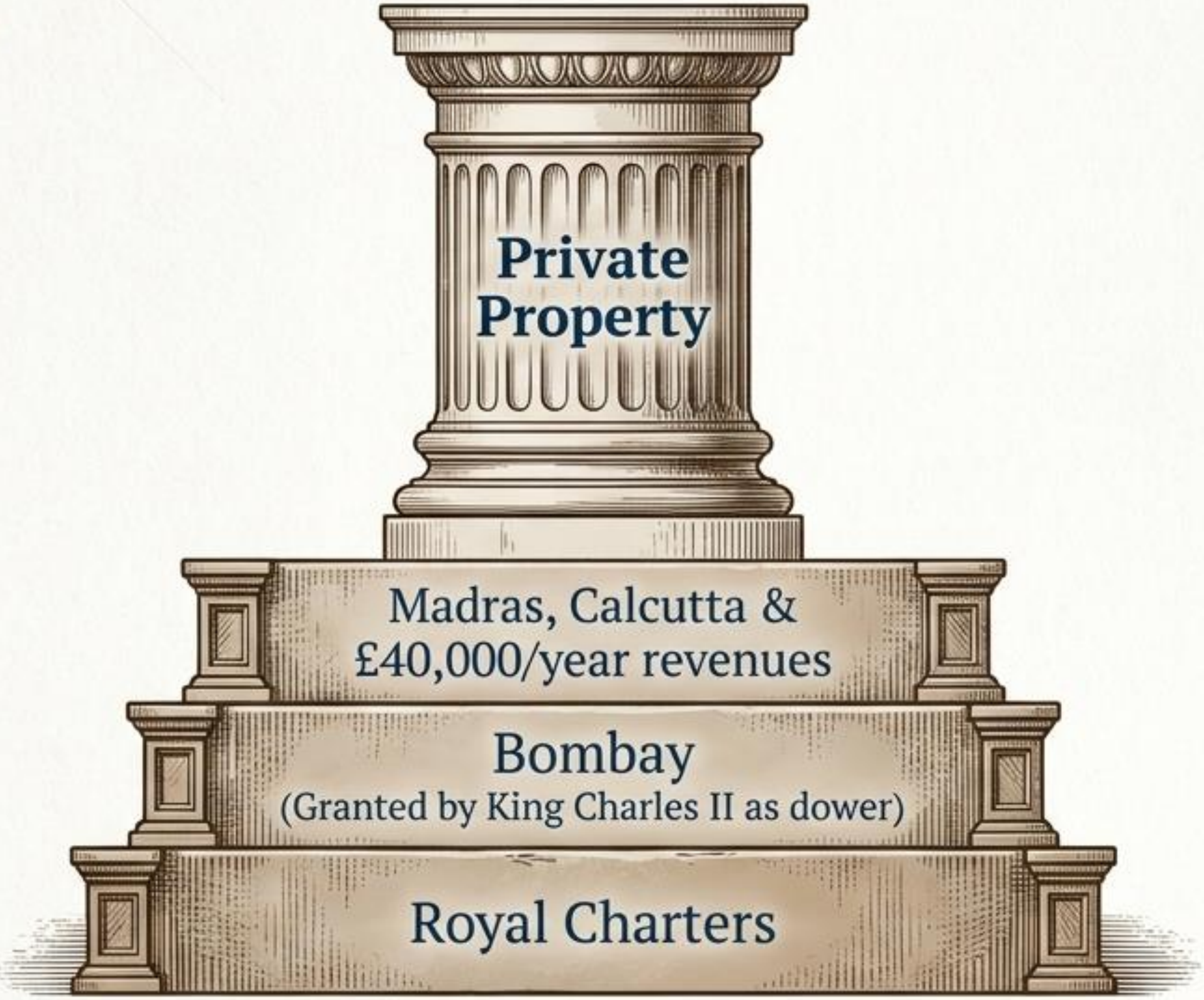
Defense Part II: The Cost of Empire

Military Balance Sheet

French Actions (State-Funded)	EIC Actions (Self-Funded Defense)
• The French EIC, acting purely as an engine of the state, was fully deployed to attack the British. • Sent massive regular military forces to India in 1744 with the explicit goal of destroying British settlements.	• Repelled the French besieging Madras. • Assumed heavy financial burdens to assist government forces in the destruction of Pondicherry. • Aided in the reduction of Manilla (an enemy settlement of no direct commercial threat to the Company).

Conclusion: The EIC served the state at great internal expense. It is unprecedented to charge a private commercial body for defending the realm against a common enemy in wartime.

The Principle of Sacred Property



The Argument:

- Corporate territorial acquisitions in India are protected by the exact same fundamental rights as any private citizen's land in England.
- To seize these revenues via Parliament is an unlawful violation of property rights.

The Statesman's Lesson

To treat a commercial enterprise as a short-term state treasury is to destroy the very engine of national wealth.

The Dutch thrived by securing property and granting complete commercial autonomy.

The French collapsed by reducing the company to a state engine via political meddling.

England's wealth—and its maritime supremacy—relies entirely on protecting the sanctity of the Company's property from the opportunistic grasp of the state.