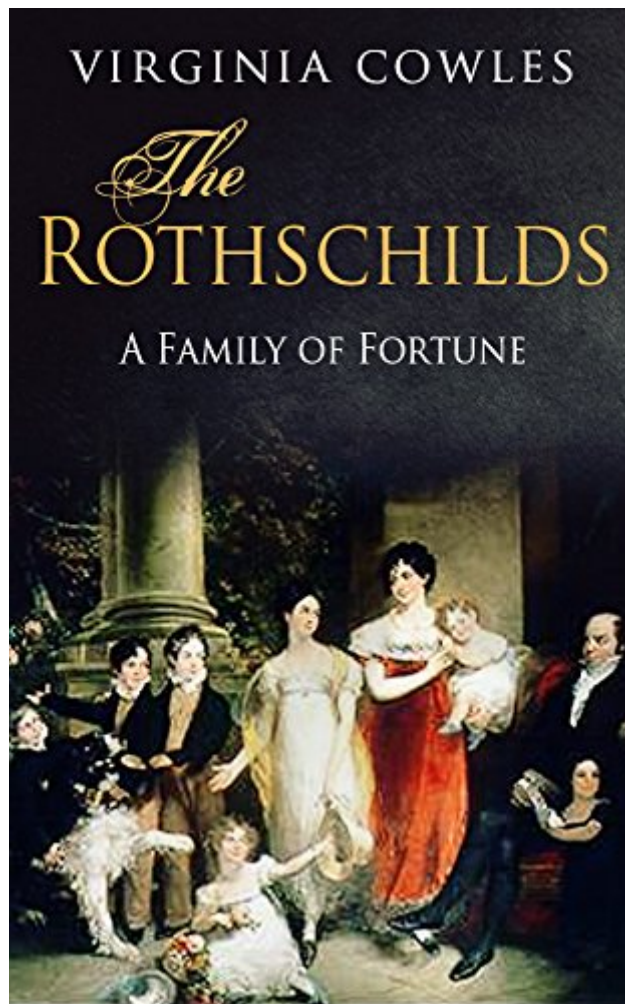


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The Rothschilds



Synopsis

Perhaps no other name in history can so truly encapsulate the phrase "from rags to riches" as Rothschild does. In the late eighteenth century, it was a gentle, astute Jew born in a Frankfurt ghetto, Mayer Amschel Rothschild, whose interest in old coins and canny investments would set the family on the path to becoming one of the most powerful dynasties of Europe. Ennobled by the Austrian Emperor, soon the Rothschild name would become a household name. Kings and princes, generals and businessmen, whether their move was political or economic, in a time of war or a time of peace, the controlling force behind them would be the Rothschild family. Dazzlingly rich, the energetic, brilliant and downright extraordinary members of the Rothschild family were the force responsible for innovations in banking throughout the nineteenth century. Times have changed and dynasties crumbled, but this marvellously rich history tells how the Rothschilds always endure.

Book Information

File Size: 962 KB

Print Length: 280 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1530742714

Publisher: Endeavour Press (August 25, 2015)

Publication Date: August 25, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B014HHBWO4

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #11,485 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #17 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Historical Study > Social History #19 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Business #24 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Business & Money > Biography & History

Customer Reviews

The history of the Rothschilds is an amazing saga. Before the family there was no "banking" as we know it. From a Frankfurt ghetto Amschel Rothschild began his rise by collecting old coins and

selling many to a German Prince. He worked for decades to develop a relationship with the Prince so he could make money helping him with financial needs. It happened finally and the four male offspring of Amschel followed their father and began to finance everything from Napoleon to Wellington! Some of the boys were brilliant others just willing to work but the father's demands that they always be together was a key feature in the rise of the House of Rothschild. Eventually there were Rothschild banks in London, Paris, Italy, and Vienna as the young men moved to the most influential cities in Europe and learned how to do business in the world. The Family was involved in the early government debt trading and later stock markets. They made pots of money in many ways including owning railroads. All was accomplished despite the virulent anti-Semitism that was common in Europe. One of the most remarkable feats was the raising of a large amount of money for Great Britain to buy the controlling interest in the Suez Canal from the Egyptian ruler who was short of cash. The Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli learned the Egyptian ruler might be willing to sell his shares so he called on Lord Rothschild presented the issue and that the money (a vast sum) was needed quickly. Lord R. replied "it shall be done." Within two weeks the money was found including three million pounds from the Bank of France even though the French owned the remaining Suez shares! Disraeli presented to Queen Victoria the control of Suez to her delight.

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