

THE POWER OF GOLD

THE HISTORY OF AN OBSESSION



PETER L. BERNSTE

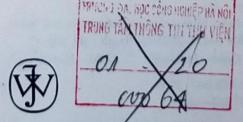
M THÓ NG THÀ THỦ VIỆM M THỐ NG THÀ THỦ VIỆM M 7 M 7

07 07

00951

GIFT OF THE ASIA FOUNDATION NOT FOR RE-SALE

QUÀ TẶNG CỦA QUỸ CHÂU Á KHÔNG ĐƯỢC BÁN LẠI



JOHN WILEY & SONS, INC.

New York • Chichester • Weinheim • Brisbane • Singapore • Toronto

This book is printed on acid-free paper. O

Copyright © 2000 by Peter L. Bernstein. All rights reserved.

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Published simultaneously in Canada.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, (978) 750-8400, fax (978) 750-4744. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158-0012, (212) 850-6011, fax (212) 850-6008, E-Mail: PERMREQ @ WILEY.COM.

This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services. If professional advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data:

Bernstein, Peter L.

The power of gold: the history of an obsession / Peter L. Bernstein.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-471-25210-7 (cloth: alk. paper)

1. Gold-Folklore. 2. Gold-History. 3. Gold-Social aspects. I. Title.

00-036647

GR810.B47 2000 398'.365—dc21

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Contents

PRO	LOGUE: The Supreme Possession	1
A M	ETAL FOR ALL SEASONS	
1.	Get Gold at All Hazards	9
2.	Midas's Wish and the Creatures of	
	Pure Chance	18
3.	Darius's Bathtub and the Cackling	
	of the Geese	38
4.	The Symbol and the Faith	52
5.	Gold, Salt, and the Blessed Town	66
6.	The Legacy of Eoba, Babba, and Udd	74
7.	The Great Chain Reaction	85
8.	The Disintegrating Age and the	
	Kings' Ransoms	96
9.	The Sacred Thirst	114
ТН	E PATH TO TRIUMPH	
10.	The Fatal Poison and Private Money	135
11.	The Asian Necropolis and Hien	
	Tsung's Inadvertent Innovation	158
12.	The Great Recoinage and the Last	
	of the Magicians	175
13.	The True Doctrine and the Great Evil	198
14.	The New Mistress and the Cursed	
	Discovery	219
15.	The Badge of Honor	239

Contents

16.	and the Endless Chain	260
TH	E DESCENT FROM GLORY	
17.	The Norman Conquest	283
18.	The End of the Epoch	306
19.	The Transcending Value	328
20.	World War Eight and the Thirty	
	Ounces of Gold	346
EPIL	OGUE: The Supreme Possession?	367
Notes		373
Bibliography		397
Index		409