

What Part B contributes to the rest of the book

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Part B has brought to light five legacies of the Reformation that the following parts will encounter again in various forms.

The first is institutional. The independent Republic, its councils, its courts and its registers offered a stable framework for economic activity. Part D will show how this framework was transformed by Geneva's entry into the Confederation, and Part E how federal financial supervisory law replaced and extended it.

The second is relational. The networks of Reformed Geneva, founded on religious and family trust, prepared the way for the Huguenot diaspora and the Protestant banking that Part C describes. They also foreshadow the international networks that constitute the strength of the financial centre today, including its relations with French-speaking Africa, which Part I will analyse.

The third is moral. The ethic of fair credit, of wealth as stewardship and of fidelity to one's commitments has found extensions in fiduciary duties, the protection of borrowers and responsible finance. Parts E and K will return to these themes.

The fourth is human. Investment in education endowed Geneva with elites capable of mastering law, languages and finance. Part J will show that the French language, carried by the Reformation, has become part of the infrastructure of the financial centre.

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The fifth is reputational. Discipline, sobriety and discretion forged an image of seriousness that constitutes a precious and fragile asset. Parts E, G and H will show how this asset has been put to the test by the end of banking secrecy, by the controversies surrounding commodity trading and by contemporary compliance requirements.

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