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# Path dependence, change and the emergence of the first joint-stock companies

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# Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Prof. `t Hart of Amsterdam University and the two anonymous referees for their valuable comments.

## Notes

- 1. The idea of bounded rationality has been advanced by Simon (1982 and 1991) and has been proposed e.g. by Frier and Kehoe (2007) to explain historical path dependence.
- 2. The UP's independence was formally recognised by the Treaty of Muenster Westphalia of 1648, but in fact, they were already independent of Spanish domination by the last decades of the sixteenth century.



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