

**Volume I**  
**The Rise of the Gold Standard, 1660-1819**

1660 May 21

**Resolution of the House of Commons to prohibit the exportation of money and bullion from England.** The policies of early modern governments towards the regulation of trade in bullion oscillated between strict intervention and a more laissez-faire approach, depending upon the prevailing economic and political conditions. The maintenance of foreign trade nevertheless required governments to export either coin or bullion. Whether it was one or the other ultimately mattered little to merchants, who in the event of a ban on the export of coin would simply melt the coin into bullion for export.

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*Resolved*, That no Money or Bullion be exported out of this Realm, to any Parts beyond the Seas, without the Approbation of Parliament; and that it be referred to the Council of State to take care thereof; and, upon any Address made to them for Liberty in that Behalf, to report the Case to this House, for their Direction therein.

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**Source:** *Journal of the House of Commons* 8, p. 39.