

subject to such Drains, must certainly and speedily be undone. For as it is impossible to distinguish the Crown-Piece spent by a Soldier, from the Crown-Piece spent by a Merchant, so it is simply impossible to make any Distinction between the Money carried abroad, by our having the Ballance of Trade against us, and the Money sent abroad to pay or to support foreign Troops, or even to pay or to support our own. I say between these there is absolutely no Distinction but One, and that is, we can with much greater Ease and Certainty put a Stop to the latter, than we can to the former. If therefore a Nation is undone by this, it must be through their own Fault, or that of their Governors, though they may be grievously distressed by that, without any great Failing either in themselves, or their Rulers. For though War be an Evil, and a very great Evil in a trading Country, yet there are Nations, who either from the Bent of their Genius, their Circumstances and Situation, or from their Want of all other Trade, make a Trade of this. It is apparent therefore, that with Respect to these Nations, the Time of War, or at least the Time of Confusion is actually more agreeable, because more beneficial than a Time of settled Peace and Tranquility. It follows, that it can never be the Interest of any of their Neighbour to feed or promote this Humour, because while it turns to the Benefit of these Dealers in War, it must prove the Destruction of such as live in another Way, and procure the Means of living by other and better Methods.

To vindicate the Truth of my Assertions, I might Instance the Republick of *Sparta* amongst the Ancients, and the Canton of *Berne* among the Moderns. The former by declining all other Trades but that of War, drew to themselves the best Part of the Gold and Silver in *Greece*; and if they had not opened a Passage for it by dispen-