

in the Pound, which adds such an artificial Weight to the intrinsic Value of our Manufactures, as puts it in the Power of some of our Neighbours, particularly the Dutch and French, to undersell us, and out of the Power of most Foreign Nations to purchase them; if we were not undersold; such is the Case with respect to our Trade abroad. But in Regard to our Conduct at Home, Things are still in a much worse State. For on one Hand, our vast public Debt may be justly considered as a Fund for Idleness and Luxury, and an unnatural Method of making imaginary Wealth produce real Interest to the Destruction of private Credit, by which Means it becomes a dead Weight on Trade, while, on the other Hand, the Money raised for the Interest of this Debt is drawn from the Lands and Manufactures of this Kingdom; so that by the most preposterous Policy, that was ever introduced in any Nation, the Industrious are taxed to support the Idle; and those who labour hardest to get their Bread, are obliged to part with one third of that Bread, to such as will do nothing.

That as these Hardships would be grievous on any Nation, so in any trading Nation they are intollerable; since they light the Candle at both Ends, and consume us as fast as our bitterest Enemies can wish. For while they load our foreign Trade, they abate our domestick Industry, and as they prevent our getting Money if we could earn it, so they hinder us from earning it, if we could get it; the Proof of these Facts is obvious in the Progress made by foreign Nations, beating us out of our Trade, which they never could have done, if the Price of our Goods had not been raised through the Increase and Multiplicity of our Taxes; at the same Time, that through the Loss of Industry, and the mighty Progress of Luxury, our Manners have been most amazingly corrupted, and this Corruption has rendered it possible to keep us for many Years, in
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