

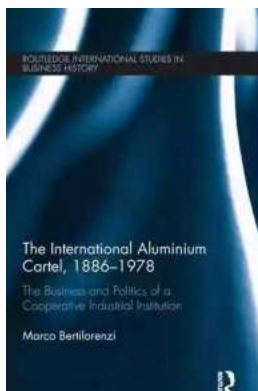
The International Aluminium Cartel: Uncovering the Secrets of Global Manipulation

Have you ever wondered how the prices of everyday commodities are determined? How about the fascinating world of international cartels that control the global supply and demand? In this article, we will delve into the mysterious realm of the International Aluminium Cartel, a clandestine organization that has been shaping the aluminium industry for decades.

The Rise of the Aluminium Industry

Aluminium, once considered a precious metal, transformed the world when it was discovered as an abundant yet lightweight material. Its unique properties opened up a wide range of applications and industries, causing a surge in demand. As a result, the aluminium industry experienced significant growth during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

With the rise in demand, the need for controlling the production and pricing of this valuable metal became crucial for those involved. This led to the formation of the International Aluminium Cartel, an influential group that would manipulate the market to their advantage.



The International Aluminium Cartel: The Business and Politics of a Cooperative Industrial Institution (1886-1978) (Routledge International Studies in Business History Book 30)

by Angelo Sommer (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 5392 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 415 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Unveiling the Secrets

The International Aluminium Cartel operated in secrecy, with its members utilizing their influence and power to dictate the global aluminium market. By establishing production quotas, fixing prices, and controlling supply, they effectively controlled the industry dynamics.

This cartel operated using various clandestine methods, including secret meetings, coded messages, and complex pricing mechanisms. Such tactics maintained an illusion of fair competition while ensuring that cartel members reaped maximum profits.

The Key Players

While it is nearly impossible to uncover the full list of members in the International Aluminium Cartel, there have been reports suggesting the involvement of major aluminium producers from countries around the world. These companies often held a monopoly or significant market share in their respective regions, allowing them to leverage their dominance in the cartel's operations.

Some of the alleged major players within the International Aluminium Cartel include well-known industry giants like Alcoa, Rio Tinto, and RUSAL. These

players held immense power in determining global aluminium prices through their participation in the cartel's decision-making process.

The Impact on Global Economy

The International Aluminium Cartel had far-reaching consequences that extended beyond the aluminium industry. By controlling the market, the cartel effectively influenced the prices of various products and sectors globally. Industries relying on aluminium, such as automobile manufacturing, construction, and packaging, felt the impact of inflated prices set by the cartel.

Furthermore, the cartel's actions distorted free market mechanisms by suppressing competition and preventing smaller players from entering the industry. This resulted in decreased innovation, diminished consumer options, and hindered economic growth in countries heavily reliant on aluminium-related activities.

Cracking the Cartel

The International Aluminium Cartel managed to maintain its influence for a significant period. However, the veil of secrecy eventually began to unravel as antitrust authorities and investigative journalists started uncovering evidence of its existence.

Several investigations conducted worldwide revealed the cartel's involvement in price-fixing, market manipulation, and restrictive trade practices. Legal actions were initiated against some of the key players, resulting in hefty fines and stricter regulations to prevent such collusion in the future.

The Road Ahead

Although the International Aluminium Cartel's operations have been disrupted, the remnants of its influence are still felt in some markets. As investigations continue, regulators and authorities around the world strive to create a fair and transparent aluminium industry.

The current scenario presents an opportunity for market players, consumers, and policymakers to reshape the industry dynamics and promote healthy competition. By encouraging innovation, diversifying suppliers, and fostering transparency, a more sustainable aluminium industry can emerge.

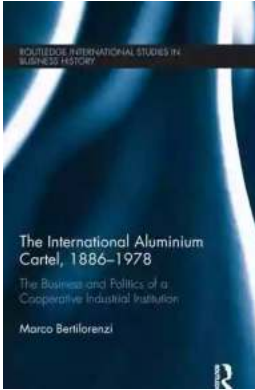
Uncovering the secrets of the International Aluminium Cartel is just the beginning. As we delve deeper into the world's complex economic landscape, we gain valuable insights into the hidden mechanisms that shape industries and affect our daily lives.

The International Aluminium Cartel's domination over the aluminium industry for several decades reveals the extent to which global markets can be manipulated. By controlling the production, pricing, and supply, the cartel influenced industries worldwide and compromised fair competition.

However, with increased scrutiny and rising awareness, the grip of such secretive cartels is slowly being loosened. Through continued efforts to promote transparency and competition, we can pave the way for a fairer and healthier global economy.

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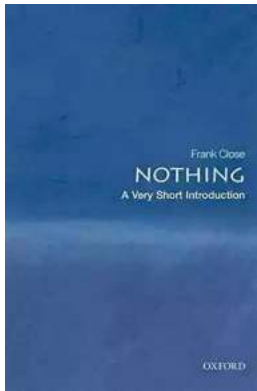


Aluminium was one of most cartelised industries in the international economic panorama of the 20th century. Born following the discovery of electrolytic smelting process in 1886, this industry, even in its infancy, established a cartel which characterised its history until nearly 1980. Managers of the aluminium industry from various historical eras and countries shared the same vision about the development of their industry: to keep prices as stable as possible in order to encourage expansions and to provide return on investments. Price instability, which characterised the trade of other commodities, was unknown to the aluminium industry.

This book neither argues that cartels are fundamentally evil, nor attempts to demonstrate that cartels are optimal business organisations. It instead provides an in-depth and frank analysis of the internal working of industrial organisations and of the interplay between cartels and political powers and institutions. The International Aluminium Cartel offers explanations for the construction and collapse of cartels, descriptions of their operations, and an historical interpretation of their experiences.

Incorporating information gleaned from a unique collection of private and public archives from several countries, this unique study will appeal to a wide variety of

readers, including academics interested in industrial and business history.



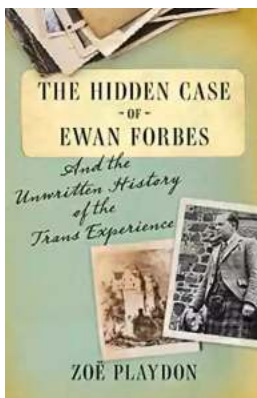
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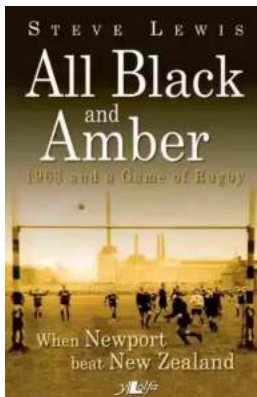
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