

This dissertation project focuses on the 18th-century medical commerce to India conducted by Pietists based in the city of Halle. It aims to connect 18th-century German economic theory and practice, so-called cameralism, with Pietism (a form of Protestantism and its perception of medicine). Moreover, the project traces how the Pietist economic and medical notions and practices tie into building the 18th-century Prussian state.

#### HALLE PIETISM

The development of Halle Pietism has to be seen in close relation to the Halle Orphanage Foundation (*Franckesche Stiftungen*; Fig. 1) founded in the late 17th century by August Hermann Francke (1663-1727) (Gawthrop, 1993). Influenced by the practices and ideals of Pietism and German cameralism, one of the greatest successes was the medical institution of the foundation, which consisted of a hospital, a dispensary and a large pharmacy that also included a pharmaceutical laboratory for fabrication (Helm, 2006).

#### GLOBAL TRADE

The Franckes foundation pharmacy became the most profitable business in the foundation. Halle's pharmaceutical products - the famous *Essentia dulcis* (Fig. 2.) - were sold all over Germany. Domestic trade was so successful that the idea of global trading of pharmaceuticals emerged (Jürgens, 2006). It was turned into reality with the help of missionaries from Halle who worked in India, in the village of Tranquebar from 1706.

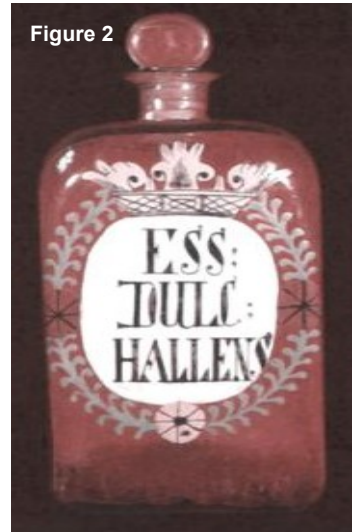


Figure 2

#### STATE BUILDING

The Pietists, with their ideas of efficiency, pedagogy, bureaucratic skills and their charitable (medical) services, played a major role in the development of the Prussian state, not least by accumulating the necessary capital for funding their activities. (Gawthrop, 1993). Medicine can be seen here, maybe for the first time in direct correlation with a new notion of efficiency, economy and the attempt to channel (medical) capital into the state building process of 18th-century Prussia.



Figure 1