**WATERLOO NETWORK:**

**OUTLINE OF THE MISSION STATEMENT AS SUBMITTED**

**TO THE LEVERHULME TRUST IN 2013**

**May 2017**

Between the outbreak of the French Revolution, 1789 and the Treaty of Vienna, 1815, Europe’s national economies were afflicted by nearly three decades of intensified warfare. The formation of an international network of economic historians would be a heuristic efficient framework for an exercise in collaborative and comparative economic history, designed to expose contrasts in the economic outcomes and prospects for long term development that flowed from this conjuncture for major European economies, their colonies overseas and for the evolution of a global economy as a whole. This endeavour requires the recruitment of experienced academics with the credentials required to have read the secondary literature and to be aware of the archival possibilities for the investigation of a meta question in European economic history in relation to a case study for a particular European country, as well as the global economy within which countries conducted commerce in goods, services and knowledge.

The Waterloo Network will operate to transcend national, linguistic, disciplinary and geographical boundaries. It is committed to close and systematic collaboration amongst experienced scholars of professional status. They have agreed to write chapters (case studies) for a major book. This book should exemplify high levels of academic interchange, contain national case studies, an introductory synthesis and expose a methodology, reciprocal comparisons across Europe, as well as perspectives on the global economy. It commemorates the anniversary of a major conjuncture in world history, should be widely read and will offer disciplined answers to meta questions about the economic outcomes that flowed from early modern warfare which are clearly central for history, economics, geopolitics and sociology. All the academics involved anticipate that their three years of collaboration will generate jointly authored working papers, articles for academic journals, popular summaries for the internet and, hopefully, service demands from European television for programmes in history.