

1784 to remedy America's industrial and scientific retardation all on his own. He planned to open a textile factory in America and had "100 Protestant emigrants ready to embark." These men, however, would emigrate for economic reasons and "As such they expect encouragement." They were confident of their ability to make a decent living in the New World, but expected to have their transportation costs covered plus some living money for the first six months "before their respective labours can be brought to a Marketable State." All in all, the enterprise would cost the United States eight thousand pounds, "an advance exceedingly moderate When Compared to the Sums invested by Many private individuals in the Manufactures in England." Grossett, who claimed to have acquired over the last quarter century "a thorough knowledge of Manufactures in General," explained that if Franklin were willing to pay the transportation costs he would come to Paris with his "Chief manufacturer" to discuss the venture in greater detail.⁵⁹

The stream of applications and the demanding expectations of the prospective immigrants exasperated Franklin. "I am pestered continually with Numbers of Letters from People in different Parts of Europe," he explained to Secretary of Congress Charles Thomson, "who would go to settle in America, but who manifest very extravagant Expectations, such as I can by no means encourage; and who appear otherwise improper Persons." To save himself the trouble of explaining American policy to each and every correspondent, in 1784 Franklin penned a pamphlet to discourage immigration, intending to send it as his reply to such inquiries. Thomson shared Franklin's sentiments. "The ports of the United States," he wrote, "are open to all foreigners and the several states are ready to receive any men of science or abilities who may be willing to settle among them, but the sovereign body of the Union do not seem to think it necessary to give any particular encouragement to any nation or to any individuals."⁶⁰

At home for the final stretch of his monumental political, intellectual and scientific career, Franklin continued to be appealed to by European artisans who looked for advice, encouragement, and support. Joseph Guillotin asked him to support the immigration of twelve families of men possessing the most up-to-date knowledge of architecture, agriculture, mechanics, physics, chemistry, and medicine who were headed for Ohio. James Hughes of Manchester proposed that the government set aside a region in the United States for manufacturing, give prospective immigrants land grants small enough to "prevent their turning to Agriculture," and exempt the region from taxes and military service for half a century. Franklin offered no material assistance to those applicants. To his last day, however, he continued to speak against British emigration restrictions, and promote the introduction of European technology to the United States.⁶¹

Franklin's responses certainly disappointed those who turned to him. I have found no case in which Franklin provided significant material reward to the potential carriers of forbidden industrial know-how. All the same, Franklin supported the dissemination of European technology in America and opposed European restrictions on the emigration of technology and skill. He believed that the very existence of the United States was contingent upon its ability to wean itself from its dependence on British industrial production. To accomplish this goal even he, "the most traditionalist of the diplomats of the American Revolution," who was known for "his scrupulosity about working in proper channels,"⁶² subversively supported technology piracy.

Yet, Franklin never became an intellectual property nationalist or tried to prevent the diffusion of American know-how back to Europe. During his Paris stay he developed a new method of typefounding. But he did not contemplate using the innovation for his own private use or reserving it for his newly arisen country. On the