

How it started?

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Rothschild Room: the Management Board Meeting Room of *La compagnie des Chemins de Fer du Nord*

James de Rothschild

A French banker born in Frankfort am Main, antidemocrat, antirepublican, financing the Great-Britain war against Napoleon, he became an iconic character of novels of no less than 3 great French writers: Stendhal in *Lucien Leuwen*, Balzac in *la Comédie humaine* and Zola in *l'Argent*.

French people grow fond of him when he is in charge of the international association for the adoption of the metric system in 1855 during the Universal Exhibition of Paris, and overall when he founds the Lafite-Rothschild Bordeaux house wine in 1868



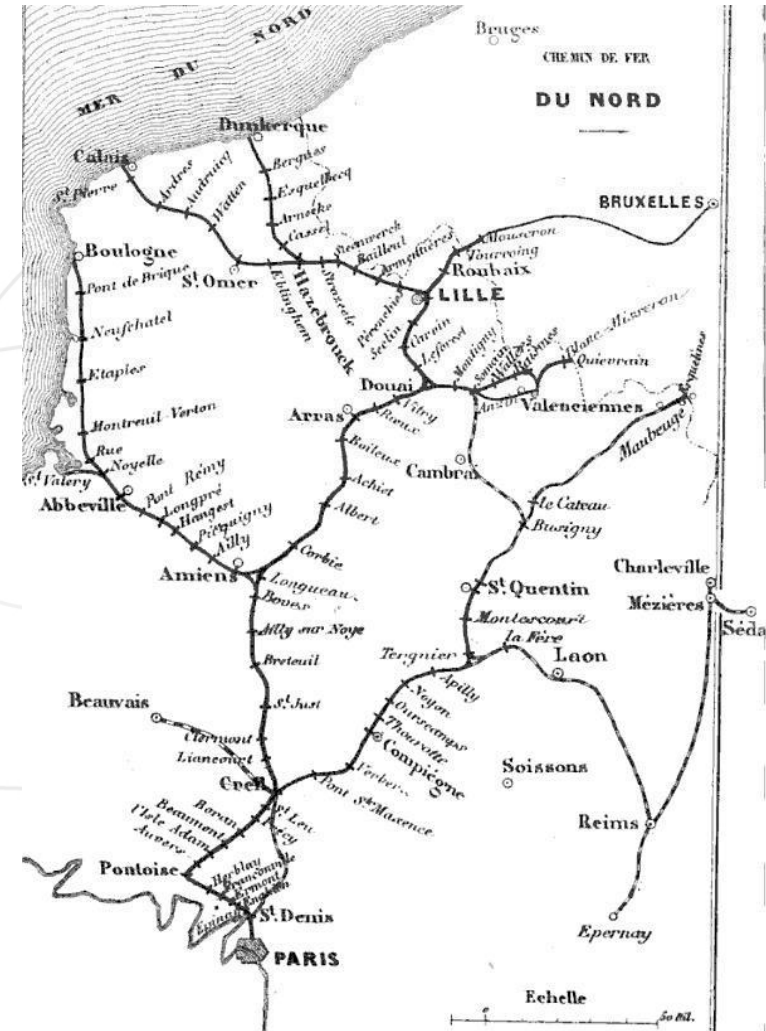
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Rothschild Room: the Management Board Meeting Room of La compagnie des Chemins de Fer du Nord

The **Compagnie des chemins de fer du Nord** operates the North part of France and a part of Benelux from 1845 to 1938. It is created by banker James de Rothschild and his partners (Charles Lafitte & Edward Blound).

It quickly becomes a model for the RUs in France, with a high density network.

It operates goods from its beginning, linking the coal mines of this rich region.



The network in 1853, at its beginning

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