

The Corporate Strategy (1885)

The year 1885 was a difficult year for the Thyssen company. The financial conditions and the company strategy had a huge importance. At that time, a big financial burden endangered the future of the Thyssen company. August and Hedwig Thyssen decided to get divorced.

As a result of this decision, August had to find a way to pay out Hedwig's financial share of the Thyssen company. In the divorcing process the judges decided:

- August Thyssen had to pay 6.000 marks per year to Hedwig and 3.000 marks for each child
- Their children inherited the company.
- August Thyssen got the right to manage the company, but all profits had to be invested in the company. Only the dividend of these works could be taken out in a proportion of 3 to 1.

After some years the sons of August Thyssen thought they had to split up the group. Thyssen started the new century having itself divided. There was no cooperation among the companies like in other groups at that time. The heirs of the company divided the big Thyssen company into smaller parts and they had the right to make use of these parts of the group (usufruct). At that time a company union like the Thyssen company was something nowhere else to be seen. This union was inventive and successful. At the day of the divorce, the fortune of the family was about 4 to 5 million marks. Under his management August Thyssen increased it by about a hundred times.