

B. A. (H)

Generic Elective (Economics): Paper 2b (Second Semester)

India and the Indian Ocean Economy, c. 1500-1800

The Indian Ocean, with its warm waters and its sailor friendly monsoon system, was the first ocean that humans could move across, covering vast distances at relative ease. Consequently, it was also the first ocean across which goods, people and ideas were exchanged on a massive scale over long distances, much before the same happened in other parts of the world.

Circa 1500, given its scale and depth, the Indian Ocean economy was synonymous with the world economy. India, both geographically and economically, was at the centre of this world economy. The entry of Europeans in the Indian Ocean during the early modern period (1500 AD-1800 AD) impacted India and the Indian Ocean in many ways. Did this signify a break from the past or did Indian Ocean and India continue their sway over the world even after, as some call it, 'Vasco da Gama epoch' began? This paper, adopting an interdisciplinary approach, seeks to explore economic, political and social changes of the early modern period, and their significance for our times and the times to come.

Notes:

1. *It is suggested, that a world map (or Indian Ocean Map) in paper or digital form may be used in the classroom to enhance the understanding of the students, although no questions may be asked regarding it.*
2. **Internal Assessment:** There will be two tests of 10 marks each and 5 marks will be allotted for attendance.
3. **Examination Pattern:** Students would be required to answer any 5 out of 8 questions. Distribution of questions should be roughly proportional to the amount of reading material under each topic.
4. 'Further Readings' given at the end are aimed at enhancing the understanding of the subject for teachers as well as students. However, no direct questions may be asked from them.

Topic Wise Reading List 2017

Unit 1: Introduction

Indian Ocean circa 1500. The Indian Ocean world - commodities, trade routes and networks. India and its position in the Indian Ocean Trade network.

Readings

1. Om Prakash, 1998, **European Commercial Enterprise in Pre-Colonial India**, CUP, Cambridge, Introduction, (pp. 1-7), Ch. 1, (pp.8-22)

Unit 2: Commodities and Networks: Europeans in the Indian Ocean Trade, 1500-1800

The advent and the impact of Portuguese 'State of India', The Dutch, English and French East India Companies on the Indian Ocean trade. Other Minor European Companies. Companies and Private Traders. The Asian and African reaction to the coming of the Europeans. Conflict and cooperation: The changing pattern of trade and politics in the Indian Ocean. Development of the Euro-Asian Trade and its impact on the Indian Ocean economy.

Readings

1. Sanjay Subrahmanyam and Luís Filipe Thomaz, 1993, *Evolution of Empire: The Portuguese in the Indian Ocean during the 16th century*, in James D. Tracy, (ed.), **The Political Economy of Merchant Empires: State Power and World Trade, 1350-1750**, CUP, Cambridge, pp. 298-331.
2. Om Prakash, 1998, **European Commercial Enterprise in Pre-Colonial India**, CUP, Cambridge, Ch. 3, pp. 72-110, Ch 4, pp111-127.
3. Søren Mentz, *European Private Trade in the Indian Ocean 1500-1800*, in Om Prakash (ed.), 2012, **The Trading World of the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800**, Pearson, Delhi, Ch. 14,(pp. 485-514)

Unit 3: Merchants, State, Finance and Trade

Indian and other merchant groups in the Indian Ocean trade. Trade and Financial networks across the Indian Ocean. Relationship between Merchants and States. Asian States (maritime and land based) and European States in Asia. The Trade Networks: Country trade, Intra Indian Ocean trade and Trans-Oceanic trade. Trade, 'Smuggling' and 'Piracy'.

Readings

1. Ashin Das Gupta, 1985, *The Indian merchants and the Western Indian Ocean: The Early Seventeenth Century*, **Modern Asian Studies**, 19, pp. 481-499 (Also available in Ashin Das Gupta, **The World of the Indian Ocean Merchant, 1500-1800**, Variorum, 1994,Hampshire, pp. 279-99.)
2. Luis Filipe Thomaz, 1985, The Indian Merchant Communities in Malacca under the Portuguese Rule in Teotonio R de Souza (ed.), **Indo-Portuguese History: Old Issues New Questions**, Concept, Delhi, pp. 56-72.
3. Pius Malekandathil, 2013, *Changing Meanings of Oceanic Circulations between Coastal Western India and the African Markets 1500-1800*, **The Mughals, the Portuguese and the Indian Ocean: Changing Imageries of Maritime India**, Primus, Delhi, pp. 123-139.
4. Søren Mentz, The Armenian Diaspora in the Indian Ocean, in Om Prakash (ed.), 2012, **The Trading World of the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800**, Pearson, Delhi, Ch. 17, (pp. 579-592.)
5. Anthony Disney, 1989, *Smugglers and Smuggling in the Western Half of the Estado da India in the Late Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries*, **Indica** Vol. 26, Nos. 1and

2, March-Sept 1989, pp.57-75 (Also Reprinted in A. R. Disney, **Portuguese In India and Other Studies, 1500–1700**, Variorum Collected Studies. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2009.)

Unit 4: Conclusion

Indian Ocean in the early modern period (1500-1800) – an assessment.

Readings

1. Om Prakash, 2012, *The Trading World of the Indian Ocean: Some Defining Features*, in Om Prakash (ed.) **The Trading World of the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800**, Pearson, Delhi, Ch. 1, pp.12-47.

Further Readings

1. Kenneth McPherson, 1993, **The Indian Ocean: A History of People and the Sea**, OUP, Delhi, 1993, Introduction.
2. Ashin Das Gupta and M. N. Pearson (ed.), 1987, **India and the Indian Ocean 1500-1800**, OUP, Delhi, Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 6, 9, 12.
3. Michael Pearson, 2003, **The Indian Ocean**, Routledge, London, Ch. 5, 6, 7.
4. Lakshmi Subramanian, 1999, *India's International Economy 1500-1800*, **The Indian Historical Review**, vol. XXV No. 2, pp. 38-57.
5. Sanjay Subrahmanyam, 1993, **The Portuguese Empire in Asia 1500-1700: A Political and Economic History**, Longman, New York. Ch. 3.
6. R J Barendse, 1998, **The Arabian Seas 1640-1700**, Leiden, Ch. 1, 2, 5.
7. R. Mukherjee and L. Subramanian (ed.), 1998, **Trade and Politics in the Indian Ocean World**, OUP, Delhi, Ch. 3, 4, 6, 9.
8. Prasanna Parthasarathi, 2011, **Why Europe Grew Rich and Asia did not: Global Economic Divergence, 1600-1850**, Cambridge, Ch. 2.
9. Michael Pearson (ed.), 2015, **Trade Circulation and Flow in the Indian Ocean World**, Palgrave Macmillan, London. Ch 1.
10. Edward A Alpers, 2014, **The Indian Ocean in the World History**, OUP, New York, Ch. 4.
11. Ernest van Veen and Leonard Blusse (ed.), 2005, **Rivalry and Conflict: European Traders and Asian Trading Networks in the 16th and the 17th Centuries**, CNWS, Leiden, Ch 2, 13.
12. Kartikeya Kohli, *Initiating India to India Trade: Portuguese Southeast Africa in the Indian Ocean Trade 1500-1800*, in Om Prakash (ed.), 2012, **The Trading World of the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800**, Pearson, Delhi, Ch. 4, (pp. 133-184.)
13. A. R. Disney, 2009, *A History of Portugal and the Portuguese Empire*, vol. 2, CUP, New York, Ch. 19, 20.
14. Tirthankar Roy, 2012, **The East India Company**, Penguin, Delhi, Ch. 1, 2.
15. Lakshmi Subramanian, 2012, *Merchants and Rulers in the Interstices of Empire, Three Merchants of Bombay*, Penguin, Delhi. Ch. 1, pp. 1-46.

16. Pamela Nightingale, 1970, **Trade and Empire in Western India, 1784-1806**, CUP, Cambridge, Ch. 1.
17. Kenneth Pomeranz, 2000, **The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World Economy**, PUP, Princeton & Oxford, Ch. 4.