

**S. 3. 2. – MARITIME TERRITORIALITY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY INDIAN
AND THE PACIFIC OCEANS**

Chair: Hideaki Suzuki

(National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)

Maritime Territoriality and Anti-Slave Trade Patrol in the 19th Century Western Indian Ocean

HIDEAKI SUZUKI (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)

Abstract

Anti-slave trade patrol led by British navies (including both the Royal Navy and the Indian Navy) is arguably the first instance in the western Indian Ocean that a specific trade was disturbed with force for a certain time scale. Trade and traffic controls have been observed in several parts of this ocean at several period. Choke point such like Hormuz Strait or Bab al-Mandeb Strait have been a place where usually local maritime powers tried to control traffic and gain profit from it. Portuguese “cartaz” is another well known example how political powers tried to control maritime trade. What is significantly different between anti-slave trade patrol and these cases is that this patrol illegalized a certain trade and did not allow to exist.

In this paper, I will show the significance of anti-slave trade patrol in the context of maritime control in the western Indian Ocean and trace the progress of this activity and clarify the driving forces behind. Furthermore, I will connect maritime territoriality in this case with British control over the western Indian Ocean which allegedly established in the late 19th century.

Biography

Hideaki Suzuki is assistant professor at National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan. He specializes Indian Ocean world history. His publications include *Slave Trade Profiteers in the Western Indian Ocean: Suppression and Resistance in the Nineteenth Century* (2017, New York; Palgrave) and he is the editor of *Abolitions as A Global Experience* (2016, Singapore: NUS Press).

Using Territoriality to Divert Human Trade: Chinese Indentured Migration to Cuba via the Spanish Philippines

MÓNICA GINÉS-BLASI (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies/Universitat Oberta de Catalunya)

Abstract

This paper studies the alternatives which Spaniards and Portuguese explored for eluding international regulations and restrictions imposed upon the trafficking of Chinese indentured labourers and child slaves, especially when the trafficking of emigrants to Latin America became stagnant in the South China coast. I will focus on the use of South China maritime routes to disguise the transport of indentured labourers as free emigrants. This is a subject which has remained unexplored despite its potential to challenge current views on the routes used for the 'coolie trade'. The Spanish government authorized the emigration of Chinese emigrants to Cuba from Manila in 1868, a moment which coincides with a strong decline in the shipment of Chinese indentured labourers to Havana. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the Chinese who went to Manila, unlike their Cuban counterparts, were recruited by Chinese and departed without contracts. Similarly, the Portuguese sold Chinese kidnapped children in treaty ports for manual labour to the Philippines and Timor. These embarkations to Southeast Asian countries were done at a small scale and using cargo ships to evade mutinies and international condemnation.

Biography

Mònica Ginés-Blasi is a Spanish historian, sinologist and art historian, currently a Gerda Henkel Foundation postdoctoral researcher. Her research deals with Chinese indentured labour migration in the nineteenth century. She has written journal articles on the trafficking of Chinese emigrants to Spanish colonies. She is a lecturer at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC), and a member of the research group ALTER: Crisis, otherness and representation, at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC).

Respect for “Territorial Authorities”: Logics of the British Anti-Arms Traffic Activities in the Persian Gulf

ICHIRO OZAWA (Research Fellow, Toyo Bunko)

Abstract

This presentation examines the logics utilized by the British authorities when they embarked on anti-arms trade activities in the Persian Gulf and, in an attempt to complete them, negotiated with various parties, both domestic and foreign, opposing to such activities, from the end of the 19th century till the 1910s.

At the end of the 19th century, the British government, or the government of British India in particular, started its attempt to stop arms traffic through the Persian Gulf, with its center at Muscat, out of its strategic concern over the arming of the tribes in the North-West Frontier region. In so doing, the British confronted fierce opposition on the part of both domestic and foreign parties, i.e. arms production industry of Britain and the French government, with the former insisting on the protection of domestic industry and the illegality of the trade regulation, and the latter bringing forward the logic of “free trade” based on the treaty it had concluded with the Sultan of Muscat. The British government defended its activities by insisting on their legality in the lawsuits filed by the domestic arms producers, on the one hand, and in the diplomatic negotiations with the French for having them agree to the preventive measures at Muscat, until it finally achieved its goal in the middle of the 1910s, if only tentatively. This presentation deals with various logics utilized by various British authorities against both domestic and foreign opponents to the arms trade control in the Persian Gulf, and analyzes what kinds of justification were brought forward, for highlighting the theoretical background of the British rule over its “lake”, i.e. the Persian Gulf, in the modern period.

Keywords

arms trade, Persian Gulf, Britain, France, Muscat

Biography

OZAWA Ichiro is a research fellow at Toyo Bunko, Tokyo, Japan. He has conducted his research on such topics as the arms transfer from Western Europe and North America to modern Iran, and the socio-politico-military history of Iran during the Qajar period. He obtained his Ph.D. in Humanity from the University of Tokyo in 2016, with his dissertation titled “Iran during the ‘modern era’ in the history of firearms: Study of the inter-regional arms transfer and its effect on the historical developments of a specific region” (in Japanese). His principal works include “Transfer of small arms from Great Britain to Iran (Persia) in the nineteenth

century,” in *Early global interconnectivity across the Indian Ocean World*, vol. 1 (ed. Angela Schottenhammer, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), and “Persian Gulf arms trade at the end of the 19th century: Focusing on the Qajar government’s suppressive activities,” *Oriente* 59-1 (2016, in Japanese).