

Companies and Trade

Essays on Overseas Trading Companies during
the Ancien Régime

edited by
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This book, the third volume in the series 'Comparative Studies in Overseas History', contains a number of essays about the function of the great Companies of Trade in the European Expansion in Asia and the Atlantic world during the 17th and 18th centuries. Nowadays it is generally recognized that the Companies played a crucial role in the opening of new markets and the widening of the economic boundaries of the world of the *ancien régime*. The central question of this book is how the Companies actually achieved these things. Was it because of their organization, their relations with the state, their trade policy, or because of their ability to make use of the economic potentialities in the overseas world? In order to answer these questions, the editors argue that in such a comparative study the Companies should be seen against the background of the social, political and economical system of the regions that comprised their theater of action.

The contributions to this volume have consequently been divided into two major themes: the Companies as instruments of trade and expansion; and the adaptation of the Companies to the trading world in Asia.

Contents

Part I. Introduction. 1. L. Blussé and F. Gastra: Companies and Trade some reflections on a workshop and a concept.
Part II. Companies as Instruments of Trade and Expansion. 2. P.W. Klein: The Origins of the Trading Companies. 3. K.N. Chauhuri: The English East India Company in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries — A pre-modern multinational organization. 4. F. Gastra: The Shifting Balance of Trade of the Dutch East India Company. 5. P.C. Emmer: The West India Company, 1621-1791: Dutch or Atlantic? 6. P.H. Boulle: French Mercantilism — commercial companies and colonial profitability. 7. G.D. Winius: Two Lusitanian Variations on a Dutch Theme — Portuguese companies in times of crisis, 1628-1662. 8. O. Feldbæk: The Organization and Structure of the Danish East India, West India and Guinea Companies in the 17th and 18th Centuries. 9. E. Schmitt: The Brandenburg Overseas Trading Companies in the 17th Century.
Part III. Companies in the Trading World of Asia. 10. D. Lombard: Questions on the Contact between European Companies and Asian Societies. 11. O. Prakash: European Trade and South Asian Economies — some regional contrasts, 1600-1800. 12. E. Kato: Unification and Adaption — the early Shogunate and Dutch trade policies. 13. A.H. de Groot: The Organization of Western European Trade in the Levant 1500-1800.
Part IV. Epilogue. 14. N. Steensgaard: The Companies as a Specific Institution in the History of European Expansion.
Notes on the contributors. Index.



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Between People and Statistics

Essays on modern Indonesian history,
presented to P. Creutzberg

edited by

FRANCIEN VAN ANROOIJ, DIRK H A KOLFF,
JAN T M VAN LAANEN and GERARD J TELKAMP
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This is a collection of twenty articles on modern Indonesian history written by a younger generation of historians. Of the twenty authors, thirteen are Dutch. This reflects both the post-war internationalisation of Indonesian studies and the recent revival of interest in South-East Asian history in the Netherlands. Not surprisingly, therefore, the book is bilingual, eleven of the articles being written in Dutch, and others in English.

Many of the articles deal with economic trends, particularly with those of the interwar years: they cover the financial crisis of the early 1920's, the spending habits of the Javanese population between 1921 and 1939, the development of textile on West Sumatra, and the depreciation of the Dutch East-Indies guilder in 1936. Another aspect which has been emphasized is 'the limitations of colonial administration': the authors seem to share a certain consciousness of the opportunities missed by the Dutch while they were rulers. There is a biographical sketch about a 19th century junior civil servant on Java, essays on the regency councils of Java between 1910 and 1920, on the social discontentment in the Pasuruan area, and on the break-down of the economy of independent Indonesia. There is also a study of the Queen's speech in December 1942 and of the role of Van Mook during the war years. Other contributions include a study of the persistent tradition of a Surakarta court ritual, the monetary history of lead in 17th century Java, and a bibliographic essay on Portuguese Timor. Piet Creutzberg, to whom this book was presented on his 75th birthday, is a pioneer in this particular field of research.



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