

PORTUGUESE TRADE RELATION WITH INDIA

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Control of seaborne trade and changes

- The Portuguese In the 17th century, India's seaborne trade with the countries of the West fell into the hands of the **Arabs** who supplied Indian goods to the merchants of **Venice and Genoa** in Italy to meet the needs of the European market.
- This arrangement was disturbed by the **geographical discoveries of the Spaniards and the Portuguese** in the last decade of the fifteenth century.
- Gradually the seaborne trade of the Arabs in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea was paralysed by **the encroachments of the Portuguese.**

Control of seaborne trade and changes

- Vasco da Gama was sent in 1497 from Lisbon to find the direct sea-route to India.
- The Malabar coast was then divided among petty Hindu chiefs. One of them, the ruler of Calicut, whose hereditary title was Zamorin, gave the newcomers a friendly reception.
- At Calicut, Arab merchants resented the appearance of a commercial rival, but the armed guards of the Zamorin protected the Portuguese.

begining

- The **commercial contacts** between **India and Europe** were very old via the **land route** either through the Oxus Valley or Syria or Egypt .
- But , the **new sea route via the Cape of Good Hope** was discovered by Vasco da Gama in Thereafter , many trading companies came to India and established their trading centres .
- They **entered India as traders** at the outset but by the passage of time indulged in the politics of India and finally **established their colonies .**
- The **commercial rivalry** among the European powers led to **political rivalry .**
- Ultimately , the **British succeeded** in establishing their rule in India

The Portuguese viceroys

- The Portuguese traveller **Vasco da Gama** reached the port of **Calicut** on 17th May 1498 and he was warmly received by **Zamorin** , the ruler of Calicut .
- He returned to Portugal in the **next year** .
- Pedro Alvarez Cabral arrived in and Vasco da Gama also made a second trip in they established trading stations at **Calicut** , **Cannanore** and **Cochin** .
- The **first Governor of the Portuguese in India** was **Francis de Almeida** .
- later in **1509 Albuquerque** was made the governor of the Portuguese territories in India .
- In 1510 , he **captured** Goa from the ruler of **Bijapur** .
- Thereafter , **Goa became the capital of the Portuguese settlements in India** .
- Albuquerque captured Malacca and Ceylon .
- He also built a **fort at Calicut** .

Portuguese Decline

- The successors of Albuquerque established Portuguese settlements at Daman , Salsette and Bombay on the west coast and at Santhome near Madras and Hugli in Bengal on the east coast .
- However , the Portuguese power declined in India by the **end of the 16th Century** .
- They lost all their possessions in India except **Goa , Diu and Daman** in the next century .

The Portuguese Maritime Trade and Supremacy over the Indian Ocean

- The Portuguese maritime empire acquired the name of **Estado da India**, which intended to monopolise the **pepper and spice trade** of the East.
- On the basis of these two commodities the Portuguese tried to found their **imperial ambitions**.
- But their attempt to monopolise the pepper and spice trade through the **Red Sea and the Mediterranean** was ineffectual in the long run, because much of the trade was carried on through the **overland caravan routes**.

Sea route

- After the **discovery of the Cape route**, the Portuguese gave greater importance to the coercive methods over those of normal peaceful commerce.
- The **Portuguese introduced a new concept to control exclusively the sea-routes and the maritime trade** of land-based states and empires of Asia.
- On the one hand, a **tribute** was demanded from Asian traders and their ships, and on the other, the **Portuguese allowed their direct trade with Europe** to be influenced by the cost of obtaining protection for the overland caravan route.

- The first of these took the form of the Cartaze system by which every Indian ship sailing to a destination not reserved by the Portuguese for their own trade had to **buy passes from the Portuguese viceroy of Goa or the Portuguese captains of the seas**; if it was avoided the merchandise of the **errant ship was seized and confiscated**.

- **Cartaz** (plural **cartazes**, in Portuguese) was a naval trade license or pass issued by the Portuguese in the Indian ocean during the sixteenth century (circa 1502-1750), under the rule of the Portuguese empire.
- The British navicert system of 1939-45 shared similarities with it.^[1] Its name derives from the Portuguese term *cartas* meaning letters.

- The "cartazes" licensing system was created in 1502 to control and enforce the Portuguese trade monopoly over a wide area in the Indian Ocean, taking advantage of local commerce: the *cartaz* was issued by the Portuguese at a low cost, granting merchant ships protection against pirates and rival states, which then abounded in these seas.
- However its main purpose was to ensure that merchants paid the tax in Portuguese trading posts, directing them to the feitorias in Goa, Malacca and Ormuz, guaranteeing its monopoly on the spice trade and other products.

- As a result of the Portuguese naval watch, very few Indian ships could venture to East Africa, the Spice Islands or to China and Japan unless, of course, the ship owners entered into indirect partnerships with the Portuguese officials or merchants in Goa.
- The **Estado da India** was wholly a piratical and parasitic state, which grew rich by ruthless plunder of unarmed Asian merchant ships.

Portuguese settlements

- In the early years of the sixteenth century, the goods of Bengal found their way to Malabar in crafts other than Portuguese.
- In 1534 the Portuguese secured permission to build factories at Satgaon (Porto Pequeno, little port) and Chittagong (Porto Grande, great port) from the Sultan of Bengal.
- There were several Portuguese settlements scattered all over Bengal. Chittagong continued to be the 'great port'; but Satgaon, the 'little port', lost its prosperity in the second half of the sixteenth century and Hughli became the Porto Pequeno.

Portuguese settlements

- Both Akbar and Jahangir left the Portuguese in undisturbed enjoyment of their **rights and privileges at Hughli.**
- But Shah Jahan captured Hughli in 1632.
- The Portuguese pirates of **Chittagong** were exterminated in **Aurangzeb's reign.**
- In Aurangzeb's time the Portuguese were weak and decadent; their territory comprised **Goa and the province of the 'North', stretching from Chaul to Daman.**

Decline Of Portuguese Power In India

- The decline of Portuguese power in India was due to **several internal and external factors**.
- Portugal was a **small country**; it could not provide adequate manpower for maintaining a far-flung colonial empire.
- The journey to India was **perilous**; mortality on the crowded vessels exceeded 40 per cent.
- **Religious intolerance** was the bane of Portuguese imperialism in India.
- The Portuguese failed to evolve an efficient system of administration which is essential for success even in colonial ventures.
- Offices were sold to the highest bidders.

Decline Of Portuguese Power In India

- **Illicit private trade, corruption and lack of discipline** were general features of the Portuguese system.
- In the **first half of the seventeenth century**, the Portuguese naval ascendancy in the Indian Ocean was successfully challenged by the **Dutch and the English**.
- The destruction of the Portuguese settlement at **Hughli** and the conquest of **Chittagong** by the **Mughals** gave a severe blow to the Portuguese presence in Bengal.

Gains

- The Portuguese brought to India the cultivation of **tobacco**.
- They crippled India's **shipbuilding industry**; Gujarat and Calicut were forced to abandon construction of ships or even armed **rowing boats**.
- The Portuguese spread Catholicism in certain regions on India's western and eastern coasts.
- The first printing press in India was set up by the Portuguese at Goa in 1556.
- The first scientific work on Indian medicinal plants by a European writer was printed at Goa in 1563.

THANK YOU
