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ARAŞTIRMA MAKALESİ/RESEARCH ARTICLE

TRADITIONAL TRADE ROUTE OF INDIAN OCEAN: THE STUDY ABOUT INDIAN TRADE ROUTE

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Abstract

A trade route is a logistical network for the commercial transport of goods. The period from the middle of the 2nd millennium BCE to the beginning of the common eras saw societies in Southeast Asia, Western Asia, the Mediterranean, China, and the Indian subcontinent develop major transportation networks for trade. This paper focus on trade over bodies of water. The Arabs and Indian merchants maintained a good relationship in the field of trade. The Arabs did not prefer a single trade routes, but they started to find new trading between world. They started step by step moving from one place to other place through sea. This route was used for networks of commercial and noncommercial transportation. This maritime route played significant role on developing good network with Indian people and islands. This trade also helped spread of Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism to the east and west. This Maritime Silk Road opened a road for understanding coastal cultures in the Indian Ocean.

My paper throws lights on trade route of Arabs before and after Islam. Not only that trying to review oldest trade routes and islands between Indian and Arabian sea. The same time attempting to read over Arab travelers and their exploring the Indian ocean experiences. The questions about how they travelled and what was the travel strategy, what were goods exported and how they maintained relationship culturally and economically.

Key Words: Indian ocean, Trade route, Maritime relation.

HİNT OKYANUSU'NUN GELENEKSEL TİCARET YOLU: HİNT TİCARET YOLU HAKKINDA ÇALIŞMA

Öz

Ticaret yolu, malların ticari nakliyesi için bir lojistik ağıdır. MÖ 2 bin yılının ortasından ortak dönemlerin başlangıcına kadar geçen sürede, Güneydoğu Asya, Batı Asya, Akdeniz, Çin ve Hindistan'ın alt kıtasındaki toplumların, ticaret için büyük ulaşım ağları geliştirdiği görülmektedir. Bu makale, su kütleleri üzerindeki

ticarete odaklanmaktadır. Arap ve Hintli tüccarlar ticaret alanında iyi ilişkiler sürdürmektedirler. Araplar tek bir ticaret yolunu tercih etmemişler aynı zamanda dünya arasında yeni ticaretler bulmaya çalışmışlardır. Deniz yoluyla bir yerden başka bir yere adım adım ilerlemeye başlayarak bu rotayı ticari ve ticari olmayan ulaşım ağları için kullanmışlardır. Bu deniz yolu, Hint halkı ve adaları ile iyi bir ağ geliştirmede önemli rol oynamaktadır. Bu ticaret aynı zamanda İslam, Hinduizm ve Budizm'in doğu ve batıya yayılmasına da yardımcı olmuştur. Bu Deniz İpek Yolu, Hint Okyanusu'ndaki kıyı kültürlerini anlamak için bir yol açmaktadır.

Makalem, Arapların İslam'dan önceki ve sonraki ticaret yollarına ışık tutmaktadır. Sadece Hint ve Arap denizi arasındaki en eski ticaret yollarını ve adaları incelemeye çalışmak değil, aynı zamanda Arap gezginleri ve onların Hint okyanusu deneyimlerini keşfetmelerini okumaya çalışmaktadır. Bu araştırma, nasıl seyahat ettiklerine, seyahat stratejisinin ne olduğuna, ihraç edilen malların ne olduğuna ve kültürel ve ekonomik olarak nasıl ilişki kurduklarına odaklanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Hint okyanusu, Ticaret yolu, Denizcilik ilişkisi.

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Introduction

Indian Ocean which are still miracle, as per historical evidence major events of trade on this Ocean started sine ancient days¹. Maritime trade is one of the indicators and determining sectors of world economy. it relates to coastal regions; same time sea root of trade plays a significant role in international trade. sea transport was more risk and challenge but also it is increasingly been competitive with other modes of transport². India, and China was one of an ancient "world market, which controlled through ocean trade and that developed ancient economics³. The western Indian ocean developed as a main maritime hub of old-world exchange after 300 BC. This way of trade created as trade Centre of people from all coasts of the western Indian ocean through dealing in aromatics, spices, textiles, gems, glass, metal, slaves, grain, timber, and other commodities etc. ⁴.

Although smaller than pacific and Atlantic, Indian Ocean has been traversed since times immemorial. People living on Asian-African littoral states traded with each other and also with the Romans and Greeks through the medium of Indian Ocean waters before and

¹ Dan McKenzie and John G. Sclater, "The Evolution of the Indian Ocean since the Late Cretaceous," *Geophys. J. R. usfr. Soc* 25 (1971): 437-528.

² Nihan ŞENBURSA İsmet BALIK, Kadir AKSAY, "Marine Transportation in Turkey and A Future Perspective," *Turkish Journal of Maritime and Marine Sciences* 1/1 (2015): 48-60.

³ Matthew Fitzpatrick, "Provincializing Rome: The Indian ocean trade network and roman imperialism," *Journal of World History* 22/1 (2011): 27-54.

⁴ Eivind Heldaas Seland, "Archaeology of Trade in the Western Indian Ocean, 300 BC-AD 700," *Journal of Archaeological Research* 22/4 (2014): 367-402.

after the beginning of the Christian era⁵. At same time, Indian Ocean is the largest warm pool on Earth, and also it plays an important role in shaping climate on both regional and global scales⁶. Which is the only tropical ocean where the annual-mean winds on the equator are westerly⁷. As per world research, Indian ocean is associated with a strong monsoon⁸.

The experiences of medieval and early modern traveler's description to reconstruct ancient pattern of communication. The Indian ocean passed by two major axes that between Red Sea Nile and the Persian Gulf until the third century CE. Merchants travelling from India can sail without much longer journey to port of Red Sea. Geographers and archeologists indicated that the best time to leave Indian ports for the Red Sea was between the start of December and 13 January. Indian ocean monsoons which vary in strength and hard warm from year to year. But, Arabian sea blow steadily from the south west from May to September and from the north east from November to March⁹. Also, Indian ocean's commercial network of development were documented at the time of Islamic and Jewish diaspora of medieval period. Same time before the rising of these religions Christianity and its mission had trade network with Indian ocean¹⁰. In ancient time, western Indian ocean was the main trade way of Chinese silk, Indian spices and textiles, African ivory, Arabian aromatics, Afghan gems, Egyptian glass, Syrian wine, and Spanish silver. These commodities were crossed in the ships from the Arabian sea, Persian/Arabian Gulf and Red sea. For communication each other face main problem but the language of the Indian ocean rim was complex¹¹. In ancient times, Ports were the commercial center due to large amounts of cargo. In maritime transportation, large scale of cargo shipped to different region. coastal ports were served for merchant vessels¹².

⁵ V.S. Sheth, "Indian Ocean in the Globalizing World," *Allternatives:Turkish journal of international relation* 1/4 (2002): 281–291.

⁶ Friedrich A. Schott et al., "Indian ocean circulation and climate variability," *Reviews of Geophysics* 47/1 (2009): 1–46.

⁷ H. ANNAMALAI SHANG-PING XIE, "Structure and Mechanisms of South Indian Ocean Climate Variability," *JOURNAL OF CLIMATE* 15 (2002): 864–878.

⁸ Peter J. Webster et al., "Coupled ocean-atmosphere dynamics in the Indian Ocean during 1997-98," *Nature* 401/6751 (1999): 356–360.

⁹ Eivind Heldaas Seland, "The persian gulf or the red sea? two axes in ancient indian ocean trade, where to go and why," *World Archaeology* 43/3 (2011): 398–409.

¹⁰ Eivind Heldaas Seland, "Trade and Christianity in the Indian Ocean during Late Antiquity," *Journal of Late Antiquity*, 5/1 (2017): 72–86.

¹¹ Eivind Heldaas Seland, "Networks and social cohesion in ancient Indian Ocean trade: Geography, ethnicity, religion," *Journal of Global History* 8/3 (2013): 373–390.

¹² Üstün Atak, "SWOT Analysis of Unmanned Surface Vehicle for Environmental Monitoring Tasks in Maritime Ports," *Bandirma Onyedi Eylul University*, n.d., 1–7.

Rise of Trade at Indian Ocean

We know that Silk route played a major role on exchanging commodities, culture and beliefs. BC 200 years ago started silk route from china through Indian ocean to Arabian and western Countries¹³. This trade relationship helped Arabians to build strong relationship through trading and marriage from Indian coastal regions like Malabar. Due to the rise of Islam, Arab traders entered to the Indian ocean and spread coastal area which helped to develop of Indo-Arab trade. At the time of Abbasid caliph Abu Jafar Al-Mansur, the Arab empire connected and strengthened network by water with the water system of Tigris and Euphrates which jointly flowed to the Persian Gulf. The ancient ports of Ubul, Daryan, and Sohar played major role. Basra became important trade hub for stockings good from different parts of world¹⁴.

Southeast Asia is the main trans- regional networks region of maritime trade, it became the history of Indian Ocean. It became inseparable from religion and ritual. The commodities like ceremonial, medicinal, or cosmetic functions found under the name of Sanskrit¹⁵. Simply, According to Isabel Hofmeyr, India ocean complicates binaries, moving us away from the simplicities of the resistant and the dominating global and toward a historically deep archive of competing universalisms¹⁶.

However, People live in different part of world awash with transnational flows of culture and trade. According to Chaudari, argues that the "Historical unity" periods between the rise of Islam and after 1750. Before 1000 years merchants sailed multi-year travel. and after 1000 years merchants make short articulated voyages¹⁷. According to Alpers, this Indian ocean region's seasonal winds that for thousands of years dictated the trade routes and agricultural processes of the region. Evidence of trade history on the Indian Ocean as early as 5000 BCE. He states the details of struggle and challenges for economic dominance between the Portuguese and Ottoman Empire and explains how the rise of European trading was. International trade theories explain that international trade provides increasing welfare for countries under given conditions. also this way of trade transformed and developed conditions of natural and acquired endowments of countries

¹³ Doç. Dr. Hammet ARSLAN, "Budizm'in Çin'e Girişinde İpek Yolunun Önemi ve İşlevi," *Çukurova Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi Dergisi* 18/1 (2018): 1–21.

¹⁴ V. Kunhali, "ADVENT OF ISLAM IN KERALA : SPECIAL FEATURES," *Indian History Congress* 36/1975 (2018): 326–337.

¹⁵ Isabel Hofmeyr, "Universalizing the Indian Ocean," *Modern Language Association* 125/3 (2010): 721–729.

¹⁶ Erik Gilbert, "Coastal East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean : Long-Distance Trade, Empire, Migration, and Regional Unity, 1750-1970," *Society for History Education Stable* 36/1 (2002): 7–34.

¹⁷ Edward A. Alpers, "The Indian Ocean in World History," in *Maritime Affairs: Journal of the National Maritime Foundation of India* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), 11: 137–140.

by time¹⁸. As per study of Aiyangar, mention that diplomatic intercourse of Ma'bar or Malabar region of south coast of Indian ocean and china was deep relationship of trade from 1280 onwards (¹⁹). During the time of ancient the world's center of gravity is transferring from the Atlantic to the Asia-Pacific region. This change also emerged nowadays as a most famous trade root throughout the world²⁰.

We know that Seas which surround the seven continents on the earth is naturally the most important part of the transportation. The sea trade is increasing relationship and power. The Indian ocean and trade how play important role on geopolitics and its effects on developing a global sea trade power. It also involves all economic and military elements²¹. The growth of maritime transportation in world trade increased the importance of world trade. As per study about Maritime trade it covered by special structure of trade. So it is a very difficult and risky line of business ²².

Oman And Yemen Sea Port

The world had a commercial ties with India, Persia, Anatolia and Arab world²³. Although maritime trade covers many political, military and administrative issues in terms of economics and economic history, it is mainly based on maritime trade²⁴. Arabs also migrated from one territory to other part of the world. One of them was Hadhramis moving to lands of the Indian Ocean rim. they were a factor in East Africa. also, Hadhramis went to India as merchants and as soldiers²⁵. Hadhrami emergence played a significant role on propagation of beliefs and views at southern coastal place of Indian ocean.

Indian Ocean trade made relationship with the interior of East Africa in the first millennium AD, in southern Africa, the site of the Mozambique coast. This link also

¹⁸ Gökçe CEREV, "The Structure of Unionization in Turkey Under Maritime Labor Code and Related Problems," *journal of social science*, 2007, 21–37.

¹⁹ Aiyangar, 1921

²⁰ Mohammad ARAFAT Duygu Çağla BAYRAM, "The Conceptualisation of 'Indo-Pacific' in the India-China-US Triangle," *Dergi park*, 2018.

²¹ Özlem YILDIZ, "Maritime Trade At Beyrut Port In The Early 20th Century," *Journal of Atatürk and the History of Turkish Republic* 11/4 (2019): 59–82.

²² Dr. Öğr. Üye. Ahmet DENİZ, "OVERVIEW OF PORT CITIES AT SEA TRADE OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE UP TO 18TH CENTURY," *AVRASYA Uluslararası Araştırmalar Dergisi* 7/19 (2019): 375–389.

²³ James Denbow et al., "The glass beads of Kaitshàa and early Indian Ocean trade into the far interior of southern Africa," *Antiquity Publication* 89/344 (2015): 361–377.

²⁴ Gilbert, "Coastal East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean: Long-Distance Trade, Empire, Migration, and Regional Unity, 1750-1970".

²⁵ Edward Pollard - Okeny Charles Kinyera, "The swahili coast and the Indian ocean trade patterns in the 7th-10th centuries CE," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 43/5 (2017): 927–947.

influenced an important and active trading port with an extensive interior trading network. Deep learning about trade winds and warm currents of the Indian Ocean can understand history of interconnection as generations of traders and settlers brought goods from the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, India, Southeast Asia and China to the eastern shores of Africa²⁶. Indian ocean, as an area of resources, trade and transport. Indian ocean relation connected in foreign trading patterns along the east African or Swahili coast in the late 1st millennium CE. Exports were made from Africa included ivory, gold, and slaves in exchange for beads, cloth, ointments, perfumes, oils, syrups, and decorated bowls from the Middle East, Indian subcontinent and Far East²⁷. Records reported by medieval travelers, traders, pilgrims and geographers such as Al-Masudi, Ibn Battuta and Zheng He have shown that the east African coast has a long association with southern Asia and China. This information points out that relationship between eastern and southern Africa with Indian Ocean. China and India are increasingly dominant in the Indian Ocean²⁸. As per historical evidence, Indian civilization emerged in Indus and Ganges valleys²⁹.

Maritime trade sailing vessels were started sail by the advantage of the monsoon winds regime. Sailing vessels in the western Indian Ocean voyaged to eastern Africa with the north-east monsoon between November and February and return with the south-west monsoon, but sail was interrupted between mid May and August, when winds are too strong waves³⁰. Evidences from Historical documents and post-medieval ethnographic recording shows on the point of Ibn-Jabyr, in the 8th–9th centuries, recorded that vessels had their planks from the keel stitched with coconut fiber in the carvel-built fashion at the Red Sea port of Aydhab. These stitches were passed through holes bored at intervals near the edges of adjacent planks³¹. In the ninth and tenth centuries, the goods were exported to vast distances from Eastern to western Asia through ocean³². The

²⁶ Dorian Q. Fuller et al., "Across the Indian Ocean: The prehistoric movement of plants and animals," *Antiquity* 85/328 (2011): 544–558.

²⁷ Pollard - Kinyera, "The Swahili Coast and the Indian Ocean Trade Patterns in the 7th-10th Centuries CE".

²⁸ George F Hourani et al., "Arab seafaring George Hourani," *Digest of Middle East Studies*, 1995, 73–77.

²⁹ Turgay Ovali, "Constituent Indian Texts as a Civilization Concept," *Journal of Civilization Studies* 4/2 (2019): 115–133.

³⁰ Stargardt, 2014)

³¹ Hourani et al., "Arab Seafaring George Hourani".

³² Gilbert, "Coastal East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean: Long-Distance Trade, Empire, Migration, and Regional Unity, 1750-1970".

shipbuilding techniques and technologies of the Indian Ocean were different than the ones in the Mediterranean in the period until the arrival of the Portuguese to region³³.

According to George F. Hourani, tried to explain the trade routes history in the Indian Ocean and of the ships which sailed on them. He throws light on trade routes in the Pre-Islamic era same time he discussed the trade routes influences of Islamic expansion and Arab caliphates role on maritime trade. At the time of Abbasids caliphates, the route of trade to china through the Gulfway very active and commerce were flourished. Also, the unity of the Mediterranean basin during Roman times which had given permission for commerce to run freely across its waters. During caliphates and after under Sassanid rule, the Indian ocean was a sea of peace and secure. Also, he notes the narratives of Arab geographers like Ibn Khudadhbih, Mas'udi and al- Istakhri 's travel descriptions about china and India surrounded by Indian ocean. also noted the goods were carried from silk fabrics, camphor, musk, and spices. Al-Mas'udi travelled himself from Umman (Oman) in 917 to East Africa and kept descriptions of the land. he also reported the Azdi group of people who were Ummani Arabs and their Trade connections with India and Indonesia. He also points out the description of Ibn Battutahs travels in the fourteenth century, and his journey to China. At last he notes the famous pilot Ibn Majid experiences and notes. Other side he mentioned the Portuguese intervention in sixteenth century with Vasco da Gama and his connection with Ahmad ibn Majid in 1498 helped to reach Calicut (Malabar region of Kerala state) southern part of India. For maritime trade and for sail helped the Ahamad Ibn Majid description and instructions about astronomical tables and latitudes, also information about winds, coasts, reefs, in fact everything that a captain would need to know. Arab travelers were used the the magnetic needle in the eleventh century on ships trading between India, Sumatra, and China³⁴.

Trade has connected societies in the western Indian Ocean for more than two millennia³⁵. The history tells us that western Indian Ocean has been shaped primarily by trade between the Arabian Gulf and the East African. Gulf countries and African countries like Zanzibaris developed through Indian ocean trade connecting with Oman trade way. This

³³ Nihal Şahin Utku, "The General Comparison of the Shipbuilding Traditions of Mediterranean and Indian Ocean," *Eskişehir Osmangazi Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi* 14/1 (2013): 135-144.

³⁴ Akbar Keshodkar, "Who Needs China When You Have Dubai? The Role of Networks and the Engagement of Zanzibaris in Transnational Indian Ocean Trade," *Urban anthropology and studies of cultural systems and world economic development* 43/1 (2014): 105-14.2

³⁵ Trade and Civilisation in the Indian Ocean: An Economic History from the... - K. N. Chaudhuri, Chaudhuri K. N. - Google Books," accessed: June 24, 2020, https://books.google.com.tr/books?hl=en&lr=&id=ByT1136ZxGoC&oi=fnd&pg=PR8&dq=indian+ocean+trade+route&ots=HwOHGIJ1gN&sig=jlZe4bt9i4d6VfeOY7tG558AInk&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=indian+ocean+trade+route&f=false.

all reflected in their social, ethnic and economic stay back. Oman and Yemen played a significant role on commercial activities linking the Arabian Peninsula to the western Indian ocean trade part. The interaction between these societies generated an extensive trading platform of commercial progress. In past years, People enabled to move from one place to another in the pursuit of business activities³⁶. The main commodities were traded like ivory, pearls, leather, slaves, mangrove wood, sugar, and textiles³⁷. other side that Oman emerged as main commercial trade hub. Through this way ocean trade Gulf countries became trade hub to Africa and other parts of west³⁸.

Indian Ocean made strong links between societies in East Africa, Arabia, South Asia and Southeast Asia, this relationship of trade created developments of the better trade of later periods, including the famous spice trade of the Roman and subsequent eras³⁹. This Arabian way of trade led species exchange, after well-known as Spice trade like black Peppercorns used for fragrance. South Indian sea regions were covered by spice. the earliest pepper was moved through coastal people into Arabian people⁴⁰.

Conclusion

Careful and detailed analysis of the historical data and description about Indian ocean maritime trade route can understand that major role of trade routes through Indian ocean. At Same time, can understand the social, economic and religious changes by maritime trade. Travelers and traders faced huge difficult for sailing and trading because of monsoon and changing the rule years by years. Indian ocean's trade emergence played a significant role on maritime trade and created the global network with east and west. The trade of Indian ocean through Red Sea and Persian Gulf made a deep link with Mediterranean contact and continues after. The ships were brought different types of commodities from one territory to another. Other side that the ocean trade route used propagation of their beliefs and views. This shaped world as one notion of relation and understanding each other. this trade developed to blood and brother relationship after. Lots of traders married and left the blood of him for future. This maritime trade developed as safe and secure coastal trade after all.

³⁶ Keshodkar, "Who Needs China When You Have Dubai? The Role of Networks and the Engagement of Zanzibaris in Transnational Indian Ocean Trade".

³⁷ Fuller et al., "Across the Indian Ocean: The Prehistoric Movement of Plants and Animals".

³⁸ Fuller et al., "Across the Indian Ocean: The Prehistoric Movement of Plants and Animals".

³⁹ Hofmeyr, "Universalizing the Indian Ocean".

⁴⁰ Kunhali, "ADVENT OF ISLAM IN KERALA : SPECIAL FEATURES".

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