

officers initially profited from conquest and plunder, but gradually shifted to a strategy of amassing private fortunes through gifts and bribes.

Private entrepreneurs could easily engage in illegal commerce, smuggling, and piracy. Jurre Knoest studies illicit trade and smuggling networks in Nagasaki, employing the *Nagasaki Criminal Records* to document smuggling activity. An analysis of 194 criminal cases of smuggling between 1666 and 1742 reveals that most prosecutions targeted illicit trade with Chinese or Japanese individuals. Knoest focuses especially on two famous cases of smuggling involving illegal weapons trading and official complicity, demonstrating the limits of the Tokugawa *bakufu's* control of foreign trade and the incomplete closure of Tokugawa Japan. Bram Hoonhout explores efforts by the Dutch WIC to stamp out smuggling by colonial planters, who imported slaves from foreign providers and exported sugar, coffee, and cotton to external markets.

Maritime and colonial warfare shaped the commercial and trading networks of the early modern world. Michael Kempe follows groups of buccaneers on the 'pirate round' of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Ship captains and crews forged cross-imperial connections in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, often blurring legitimate privateering and illegal piracy activities. Silva Marzagalli argues that warfare frequently disrupted the principles of trading exclusivity and monopolistic controls in the Atlantic World. She focuses especially on the reorganization of French trading patterns in the Caribbean during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1789-1815) when the Haitian Revolution and British occupations forced French colonists to alter their trading patterns with French ports and to construct new commercial relationships with ports in the Caribbean and the United States.

The historiographical approaches employed in the book raise some methodological and definitional questions. The contributors sometimes deploy rather loose definitions of families, social groups, and economic organizations. The conceptions of networks blur distinctions between kinship ties, epistolary connections, information networks, shipping lanes, and economic relationships. The informal associations between merchants may encompass unique encounters, incidental connections, or sustained cross-cultural interactions.

Beyond Empires succeeds in constructing a history of unofficial global networks and informal commercial activities in the early modern period. Cátia A.P. Antunes and Amelia Polónia argue that 'this *informal empire* that was brought to fruition by the individual choices of free agents and their networks as a reaction to state-imposed monopolies was ... a borderless, self-organized, often cross-cultural, multi-ethnic, pluri-national and stateless world that can only be characterized as global' (10). This collective volume offers fresh evidence on private entrepreneurs, merchant families, and mercantile companies—exposing the ways in which they practiced commerce in the early modern world.

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Ravi Palat, *The Making of an Indian Ocean World-Economy, 1250-1650: Princes, Paddy fields, and Bazaars*. Palgrave-Macmillan: London, 2015. 305 pp. ISBN: 9781137562265. \$99.00.

Ravi Palat, Professor at the Department of Sociology, Binghamton University, The State University of New York, has written a sleek, engaging and instructive volume (223 of text; 31 of

endnotes, and 305 pages in total), entitled: *The Making of an Indian Ocean World-Economy, 1250-1650: Princes, Paddy fields, and Bazaars*. This is the third volume in Palgrave's series in Indian Ocean World Studies. Palat is a senior scholar who has undertaken research on diverse topics ranging from historical sociology, political economy, social theory, nationalism and ethnic conflict. He describes in his title that this is a study of 'an Indian Ocean' world-economy (emphasis mine) and I agree with characterization and use of the term as being singular in nature and his choice in approach and framework toward his primary unit of analysis, its chronological selection and the historical sociological observations made over the exercise of power, wealth, knowledge, and meaning in the societies that he examined.

The stated objective of this volume 'to sketch a truly alternate pattern of long-term, large-scale social change ... by tracing the patterns of sociohistorical change in societies based on wet-rice agriculture' (28). It is organized into an Introduction, four chapters, and an Epilogue. In his Introduction, he effectively outlines and offers his stylized model, which recognizes and acknowledges a set of regional variations and the impact of external intrusions upon social change and the development of Monsoon Asia or the Indian Ocean world with the advent of the arrival of Europeans and the advent of their incursions upon these regions. He goes on to engage the reader with the theoretical implications of this work with the existing literature on the topic and finishes his plan for the work. In Chapter 1, Palat develops his argument that the socio-historical changes in societies based on wet-rice agriculture (i.e., those that roughly coincide with monsoon Asia and much of modern-day China and India) provided conditions and parameters for changes in patterns and processes that are an alternative to Eurocentric notions. In Chapter 2, he 'examines the impact of political changes following the breakout of the peoples of the Central Asian steppe to carve out large territorial empires in much of modern-day China and India'. Expansion, as a process, is logically central to his argument; in Chapter 3, Palat expounds upon and connects a series of improvements in the factors of production (i.e., increased agricultural productivity permitting a greater participation in non-food production, improved skills and specialization of production in preference to the employment of labour-saving options and devices). He links these processes to a growth of trade and the realignment of trading relations in the Indonesian archipelago and the revocation in Late Song China trading restrictions with a conjuncture on the two wings of the Indian Ocean (i.e., the decline in craft production in West Asia and the decline in population in the eastern Mediterranean due to the Black Death) in the fourteenth century. Those circumstances for Palat 'laid the basis for the emergence world-economy centred around, and integrated by transport across, the Indian Ocean' (30). He completes this survey of the development of this world-economy in Chapter 4, by dividing it into three chronological stages: a) from the mid-fifteenth century to the early sixteenth century with the arrival of the Portuguese; b) the latter part of the sixteenth century that revealed increasing global exchanges of precious metals; and c) the third and final stage, which was inaugurated by the arrival of the Dutch and English East India Companies on the scene and Palat chooses to end in the mid-seventeenth century on the basis of political and economic conditions on the ground in India, Southeast Asia, and East Asia.

The objectives of this work, as the above summary of its organization suggests, are ambitious and Palat has been generally successful in presenting a coherent and convincing argument (albeit one must agree almost entirely with Wallerstein's world-systems analysis) about the socio-historical background and construction of this Indian Ocean world-economy. However, I did find that some of the language that he employed detracted from his presentation.

For example, two of the prominent “straw-men” targets in this work are ‘eurocentrism’ (27-8, 33, 36, 209, and 215) and the explicit and seemingly urgent language used by Palat to bring ‘South India the Indian Ocean back into a framework to debate World History’ (1-3). The first target is well known, and to a degree so overly mentioned and clichéd, that it is almost too obvious and pedestrian to be an issue to be raised unless an Asia-centric or Indo-centric or Sino-centric analysis is being openly or subliminally advocated as a full-blown academic or intellectual substitute for this practice. Although I understand and share the author’s concern, the second target of bringing South India and the Indian Ocean ‘back’, frankly, does not resonate or coincide with my appreciation of the major recent research work and publications over the past decade or more, which, in general, Palat’s Bibliography acknowledges. Although readers, in general, may accept that South India and the Indian Ocean have been excised from this debate in the past, I think that specialist readers will agree that this position has changed dramatically for the better in the recent past. Palat’s rationale using such language is not clear and, perhaps, unnecessary, since this sleek volume covers nearly 400 years of history and delivers a well-honed argument.

With the regrettable absence of maps, the target readership for this volume, apparently, was more oriented toward the specialist rather general readership. Despite this observation, Palgrave’s series in Indian Ocean World Studies is to be commended for its appearance.

Despite my quibbling over some of the language that the author employed, Palat’s *The Making of an Indian Ocean World-Economy, 1250-1650* is a succinct, well-delivered, ambitious and complex history and sociology about a region and approach to its history that should be read and engaged.

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Charles S. Maier. *Once Within Boundaries: Territories of Power, Wealth, Belonging since 1500*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2016. 387 pp. ISBN: 9780674059788. \$29.95.

Election results have always been newsworthy, but these days they generate significantly more interest if perceived as referenda on border, immigrant, and refugee policies. In this heated contested battle for who gets to join the community inside borders, understanding the history of the concept of territory becomes stringent. In his timely book, *Once Within Borders: Territories of Power, Wealth, and Belonging since 1500*, Charles S. Maier offers a masterful long durée history narrating the evolution of the meaning of ‘territory’ for the last five hundred years in close connection with its political and economic context.

With varied, but unsurprising choices drawn mainly from Europe, North America, South-east and East Asia, the book’s first two chapters trace an evolution from enlarging empires with fluid imperial borderlands to early modern sovereign states with visible borders. The strength of this section is not its novel interpretation, but a clear synthesis based on new trends in imperial histories, including a push back on the decline paradigm and understanding empires as negotiated rather than merely imposed political creations. Maier’s inspired metaphor of ages of imperial glaciation evokes the continuously shifting nature of imperial borders and the unavoidable dependency between imperial claims to power and territory expansion.