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978-1-107-07026-4 - Ocean of Trade: South Asian Merchants,
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Ocean of Trade

Ocean of Trade offers an innovative study of trade, production and consumption across the Indian Ocean between the years *c.* 1750 and 1850. Focusing on the Vāṇiyā merchants of Diu and Daman, Pedro Machado explores the region's entangled histories of exchange, including the African demand for large-scale textile production among weavers in Gujarat, the distribution of ivory to consumers in Western India, and the African slave trade from Mozambique that took captives to the French islands of the Mascarenes, Brazil and the Rio de la Plata, and the Arabian peninsula and India. In highlighting the critical role of particular South Asian merchant networks, the book reveals how local African and Indian consumer demand was central to the development of commerce across the Indian Ocean, giving rise to a wealth of regional and global exchange in a period commonly perceived to be increasingly dominated by European company and private capital. The book offers an important contribution to our understanding of the layered and entangled histories of Africa and South Asia within an oceanic and global context.

Pedro Machado is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Indiana University, Bloomington.

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Note on currencies

As my text deals with a number of currencies, this note is for purposes of clarification.

Indo-Portuguese coinage was largely silver based. It can be understood in terms of a fictitious unit that was used as an imperial currency of account, the *real* (pl. *réis*). It was written 100 *réis* or \$100, with the \$ symbol marking the thousands. Thus, 100\$000 is 100,000 *réis*, 900\$000 is 900,000 *réis*. A figure written 10:000\$000 is 10,000,000 *réis* and can be expressed as 10 *contos*. For reasons of clarity, I have chosen throughout to write “*réis*” after an amount (e.g. 10\$000 *réis*).¹ Currencies in use in India that are mentioned in the text were thus convertible against the *real* at the following rates in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries:

Xerafim = 300 *réis*

Tanga = 60 *réis*

Cruzado = 400 *réis*

Reference in the text is occasionally made to the *Rupee* (Rs), the Indian unit of currency. While valuations of the *Rupee* varied throughout India, a tentative conversion rate is 1 Rs = 630 *réis*.

With regard to *piastres* and *patacas*, the Spanish silver dollars (\$) that circulated in French and Portuguese territories, and that served as a basic trading currency in the western Indian Ocean from the late eighteenth century, I have calculated their value as follows²:

\$1 = 710 *réis*

¹ This information is based on Sanjay Subrahmanyam, *The Political Economy of Commerce: Southern India, 1500–1650* (Cambridge University Press, 1990); Joseph C. Miller, “Slave Prices in the Portuguese Southern Atlantic, 1600–1830”, in Paul Lovejoy (ed.), *Africans in Bondage: Studies in Slavery and the Slave Trade* (Essays in Honour of Philip D. Curtin on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of *African Studies at the University of Wisconsin*) (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1986), 43–77.

² I have arrived at this calculation from information provided in Rudy Bauss, “Textiles, Bullion and Other Trade of Goa: Commerce with Surat, other areas of India, Luso-Brazilian ports, Macau and Mozambique, 1816–1819”, *IESHR*, 34, 3 (1997), 276; Richard B. Allen “Licentious and Unbridled Proceedings: The Illegal Slave Trade to Mauritius and the Seychelles during the Early Nineteenth Century”, *Journal of African History* 42, 1 (2001), 102.

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Abbreviations

AD	Alfandegas de Diu
ADm	Alfandegas de Damão
AHM	Arquivo Histórico de Moçambique, Maputo, Mozambique
AHU	Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino, Lisbon
ANTT	Arquivos Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Lisbon
APO	J. H. da Cunha Rivara (ed.), <i>Arquivo Português Oriental</i> , 9 vols. (Nova Goa: Imprensa Nacional, 1857–77)
BN	Biblioteca Nacional de Lisboa
CD	Correspondencia de Diu
CDm	Correspondencia de Damão
CM	Correspondencia de Moçambique
Cx	Caixa (Box)
DAM	Francisco Santana (ed.), <i>Documentação Avulsa Moçambicana do Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino</i> , 3 vols. (Lisbon: Centro de Estudos Históricos Ultramarinos, 1964–74)
Doc.	Documento (Document)
FHGC	Luis Fernando de Carvalho Dias, <i>Fontes para a Historia, Geografia e Comercio de Moçambique (sec. XVIII)</i> (Lisbon: Junta de Investigações do Ultramar, 1954)
HAG	Historical Archives of Goa, Panjim
IESHR	<i>The Indian Economic and Social History Review</i>
Moç.	Moçambique/Mozambique
MSA	Maharashtra State Archives, Bombay, India
OIOC	Oriental and India Office Collections, British Library, London
PD	A. B. de Bragança Pereira (ed.), <i>Os Portugueses em Diu</i> (Bastorá: Tipografia Rangel, 1938)
NA	National Archives, Kew, England
RMS	António Alberto de Andrade, <i>Relações de Moçambique Setecentista</i> (Lisbon: Agência Geral do Ultramar, 1955)

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RSEA George McCall Theal, *Records of South-Eastern Africa: Collected in Various Libraries and Archive Departments in Europe*, 9 vols. (Cape Town: Printed for the Government of the Cape Colony, 1898–1903)