

<b>Paper ID</b>	063
<b>Author(s)</b>	Yusuke Yoshioka
<b>Title</b>	A Monsoon-Based Trading System: Efficiency of the Dutch Trade in Maldivian Cowrie Shell during the Seventeenth and the Eighteenth Centuries
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>This paper explores how the Dutch East India Company (VOC) utilized the seasonal variation of monsoon winds in the Indian Ocean during the early modern period. To examine this, this paper focuses on the maritime trade in cowrie shells from the Maldivian Islands to the Netherlands via Dutch Ceylon.</p> <p>First, this paper surveys the VOC's attempt to attract Maldivian shipping to Dutch Ceylon. Initially, Maldivian vessels carrying cowrie shells had mainly sailed to Malabar and Orissa under the southwest monsoon. In these places, the VOC purchased Maldivian cowrie shells. However, in 1688 the VOC began a project to attract Maldivian vessels to Dutch Ceylon so as to obtain cowrie shells and sell them in the Netherlands to European merchants engaged in the slave trade in West Africa.</p> <p>Second, this paper also analyzes the backgrounds of this VOC's project from a perspective of natural environmental conditions. In fact, the VOC was acquainted with seasonal changes of monsoon winds in the Indian Ocean and positioned Dutch Ceylon as a key rendezvous of the VOC's homeward-bound ships. By purchasing cowrie shells from Maldivians in Dutch Ceylon, the VOC could effectively reship them under the northeast monsoon. This trade was beneficial for the Maldivians too, as they were able to purchase rice and areca nut with short distance voyages. In this way, the seasonal supply chain continued throughout the eighteenth century, and the VOC succeeded in establishing stable and efficient trading system by taking advantage of environmental conditions.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Cowrie shell, Maldivian islands, Dutch East India Company, Rice, Indian Ocean World

<b>Paper ID</b>	062
<b>Author(s)</b>	Chisa Mizobuchi
<b>Title</b>	Elephant Capturing under the Seasonal Weather Pattern and Topographic Conditions of Sylhet, Eastern Bengal, in the Latter Half of the Eighteenth Century
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>The monsoon movements and the topography of hinterlands influenced on the relationships between humans and animals in the Bay of Bengal in the latter half of the eighteenth century. This paper investigates how the people of Sylhet, Eastern Bengal, conducted elephant capturing under the influence of monsoon-driving seasonal weather pattern and the Sylhet's particular topography shaped by plate movements and river currents.</p> <p>First, this paper examines the location of elephant capturing, keeping in mind the topography and the annual water balance of Sylhet. Sylhet's western part, dominated by low-lying basins, experiences extensive flooding during the wet season due to heavy rains and river currents. In contrast, the eastern part of Sylhet, characterized by relatively higher elevations, became the primary base for capturing wild elephants. People pursued elephants into the forestry hills connected to the eastern part of Sylhet.</p> <p>Second, this paper describes the annual timetable of elephant capturing. During the dry season, elephant drivers and peasants drove elephants into large enclosures, spending several weeks in the forest. After the wild elephants were captured, they were tamed and paid as a part of tax to the British East India Company and the Nawabs of Bengal. Elephants were transferred to the Nawab's stables in Dacca and Murshidabad, and the British Company's military cantonments. Seasonal constraints dictated the timing of their transport, as the dry season</p>	

minimized risks associated with muddy roads and swollen rivers.	
<b>Keywords</b>	Animals, Elephants, Sylhet, Monsoon, Rivers

<b>Paper ID</b>	092
<b>Author(s)</b>	Qiu Zhenwu
<b>Title</b>	From Divine Wrath to Natural Disaster: Human Responses to Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal Since the 16th Century
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>The Bay of Bengal has gained attention as a unit of historical study since the 1990s. Earlier research focused on trade and cultural exchanges, often overlooking the relationship between humans and the environment. This gap has begun to close with the influence of environmental and oceanic history. This paper examines how human societies in the Bay of Bengal—across the medieval (Chola dynasty), modern (European colonial), and contemporary (nation-state) periods—responded to tropical cyclones and storm surges. During the medieval period, the Chola dynasty developed hydraulic infrastructure to defend against storm surges, and its sailors gained practical cyclone knowledge, reflected in Hindu texts. By the 16th century, Bengali poetry referenced cyclones, often attributing them to divine wrath, while Europeans encountered them for the first time. With the rise of colonialism in the region, cyclones became a tangible disaster, prompting the British to systematically record cyclone data by the 18th century. The India Meteorological Department, established in 1875, aimed to study cyclones and develop early warning systems to support colonial rule. Post-independence, India inherited this technocratic approach, though cyclone responses remain shaped by colonial legacies. This paper argues that the notion of cyclones as a “disaster” evolved with colonial expansion and continues to influence cyclone disaster management today. Additionally, it is insufficient in focusing on technological solutions without considering ecological and social contexts.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	cyclones; colonialism; meteorology; disaster; ecology

<b>Paper ID</b>	114
<b>Author(s)</b>	Xi Ma
<b>Title</b>	Encountering Horses in India and China: Environmental, Cultural, and Imperial Dimensions of British Horsemanship in Nineteenth-Century Asia
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>This study examines the intersection of environmental history, cultural preferences, and imperial practices in the British pursuit of horses in nineteenth-century Asia and across the Indian Ocean. Early modern British standards for "good horses," emphasizing speed, pedigree, and England's natural environment for breeding, devalued horses from China and India. These horses were considered ill-suited for military and racing purposes, a judgment rooted in environmental determinism and perceptions of ecological and cultural inadequacies. As British imperial ambitions expanded into Asia, these criteria clashed with local environmental and geopolitical realities. In India and China, climatic conditions, political challenges, and military conflicts hindered the acquisition of suitable horses. The British empire increasingly turned to resources across the Indian Ocean to support its colonial enterprise in India, exploiting regions like the Persian Gulf, southern Arabia, and south Africa as key suppliers. This transoceanic network underscored the empire's ability to leverage vast geographic and ecological resources to meet its military and cultural needs. By the late nineteenth century, Australia solidified</p>	

its role as a dominant supplier of horses to India, while in China, the British shifted to hardy Mongolian horses better adapted to local conditions. These strategies highlight the flexibility and resourcefulness of British imperialism in addressing logistical and environmental challenges. This article underscores the role of horses as critical resources in the British colonial project and demonstrates how environmental and imperial histories intersected in shaping the exploitation and reconfiguration of ecological landscapes across the Indian Ocean and Asia.

<b>Keywords</b>	Animals, India, China, British Empire
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<b>Paper ID</b>	222
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<b>Author(s)</b>	NIER WU
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<b>Title</b>	Colonial management on the date industry of Iraq and its oceanic impact
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#### Abstract

Dates is a unique food and commodity in the Middle East. Mesopotamia, especially the Shat Al 'Arab area around Basra alongside the Persian Gulf is the center of the date industry in the Middle East. During its colonial expansion, the British Empire has been involved in the date industry in the Middle East since 19th century. Since the outbreak of World War I, the British launched the Mesopotamia Campaign and directly controlled Basra, and then conducted thorough investigation and pursued a direct control. During its mandate period, the British was involved in this industry through infrastructure construction, irrigation and water conservancy projects, economic and trade policies etc. Iraqi dates were further sold around the world through the transportation and trade networks of the British Empire, and have since become a global commodity. The colonial expansion of the British Empire in the Middle East was not only through military conquest and economic exploitation, but also through important environmental management. The "environmental development" conducted by the British authorities have not only affected the natural environment of the Tigris-Euphrates basin, but also constructed the recognition and knowledge system of dates species, and have had an impact on the production and dissemination of knowledge. This is also the "intangible environmental cultural heritage" of the British Empire.

<b>Keywords</b>	Dates, Colonisation, British Empire, Middle East
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