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**From Camp to Port: Mughal Warfare and the economy of Coromandel,
1682-1707**

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**From Camp to Port: Mughal Warfare and the Economy of Coromandel,
1682–1710**

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Aan het begin lijkt ieder goed project onmogelijk, or ‘every good project appears impossible at the beginning’— so did this dissertation, but it has finally reached the finishing line.

I was very much a landlubber who had little idea of the sea air when I began my Master’s in History at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. That I have written a doctoral thesis on the economic impact of Mughal wars in late seventeenth-century Coromandel, a major manufacturing and exporting hub of the erstwhile Indian Ocean, is due to a few teachers who have led me to the sea. At JNU, Professor Pius Malekandathil introduced me to the history of South India, encouraged me to learn Dutch to explore the archives of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) and to apply for the Cosmopolis programme which brought me to the Netherlands. Professor Ranabir Chakravarti lit up my imagination with stories of his own research on the Indian Ocean and anecdotes from the career of Ashin Das Gupta. A seminar paper I studied with Professor Joy Pachuau fanned my imagination even more by allowing me to survey Indian merchant diaspora’s that traded in the western Indian Ocean.

At Leiden University, my doctoral supervisor Professor Jos Gommans, who cannot be thanked due to university regulations, emphasized the need to analyse the connections between the coast and the interior to understand the histories of early modern Indian Ocean empires of the Ottomans, the Safavids and the Mughals. Out of this idea was born the primary question of my dissertation: to research the impact of the southern campaigns (1682–1707) of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb on the economy of Coromandel in the late seventeenth century and early eighteenth century.

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Hartelijk bedankt allemaal!

Note on spelling

In this dissertation, mention is made of numerous villages throughout Coromandel in which the VOC had a commercial stake. Few of these villages still exist, and in most cases it has not been possible to locate them precisely or find standardized English spelling of their names. For this reason, the author has decided to use the spellings given by the VOC officials of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Alternative spellings of Gingee include Jinji and Senji. This dissertation uses Gingee. Similarly, Masulipatnam is sometimes written as Machilipatnam, and Nagapatnam as Negapatnam, but the spellings Masulipatnam and Nagapatnam are used in this dissertation. In some cases, alternative spellings are given in parentheses. For example, Chapter 3 mentions Tirumalairayanpattinam, a fifteenth-century port in southern Coromandel. By the time the VOC speak of the port in the second half of the seventeenth century, however, it had turned into a small village inhabited by weavers and dyers, and the spelling used in the VOC sources is Tirumalapattinam. The alternate spelling Tirumalairayanpattinam is given in parentheses.

For terms in Persian and other South Asian languages I use the most common transliteration, dispensing with diacritical marks but using italics. This dissertation has used translated Persian chronicles. I will refer to them on the basis of the transcription that is offered by the translator (Sarkar), being *Maasir-i-Alamgiri* and *Tarikh-i-Dilkasha*. Throughout the thesis I have adopted his usage of the Persian *ezafe* for titles, technical terms and personal names.