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

Chaudhuri, A.

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

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Promotor:

Prof. dr. J.J.L. Gommans

Promotiecommissie:

Prof. dr. P. Malekandathil (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Prof. dr. B. Schoenmaker

Dr. A. Singh (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Dr. C.M. Stolte

<u>Contents</u>	
Acknowledgements	1
Note on spelling	3
Introduction	4
<u>Part I: Political and Economic Landscapes</u>	31
Chapter 1 Masulipatnam's political and economic landscape	32
1.1 Ecology	32
1.2 The economy	35
1.3 Politics	56
1.4 Regional response to political instability and wars	63
Chapter 2 Pulicat's political and economic landscape	67
2.1 Ecology	67
2.2 The economy	74
2.3 Decline and survival: The political economy of Pulicat beyond Vijayanagara	80
2.4 Regional response to political instability and wars	94
Chapter 3 Nagapatnam's political and economic landscape	101
3.1 Ecology	101
3.2 The political economy of Nagapatnam from the eleventh to the sixteenth century	104
3.3 The economy of Nagapatnam and the Kaveri delta in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries	111
3.4 Regional response to political instability and wars	127
Conclusion to Part I	129
<u>Part II: Aurangzeb's southern campaigns and the economy of Coromandel: 1682–1707</u>	133
Chapter 4 Masulipatnam: the Mughal wars and their impact	134
4.1 Along the campaign trail	134
4.2 The economy	139
4.3 Climate and agriculture	168
4.4 Conclusion	172
Chapter 5 Pulicat and Nagapatnam: the Mughal wars and their impact	180
5.1 Along the campaign trail	181
5.2 The economy	187
5.3 Climate and agriculture	205
5.4 Conclusion	208
Conclusion	212
Appendix 1: Annual financial results of the VOC in Coromandel, 1626–1713	223

Samenvatting	229
Bibliography	232
List of abbreviations	241
Glossary	242
Curriculum Vitae	245

List of figures

Fig. 1.1 Seventeenth-century Masulipatnam	46
Fig. 2.1 Textile-producing centres in central Coromandel	91
Fig. 4.1 Volume of VOC's textile exports from Coromandel, 1691-1713	162
Fig. 4.2 Value of VOC's textile exports from Coromandel, 1691-1713	162

List of maps

Map 1.1 The major inland commercial arc of Masulipatnam in the seventeenth century	47
Map 1.2 Cotton growing regions in the west of the Deccan and the textile industry of northern Coromandel	50
Map 2.1 Overland routes of South India 1500-1600	72
Map 2.2 Weaving centres in South India 1000-1500	79
Map 3.1 Land elevation of South India and Ceylon	103
Map 3.2 South Indian mandalams c.1000 AD	105
Map 3.3 Route links of Vijayanagara in the sixteenth century	109
Map 3.4 Weaving centres and markets of southern Coromandel	122
Map 5.1 Direction of southern expansion of the Mughal Empire in the late seventeenth century	181

List of tables

Table 1.1 Arrivals at and departures from Masulipatnam 1681-1686	44
Table 1.2 Weaving villages between Palakollu and Nagulvancha	54
Table 3.1 Weaving villages in the Kaveri delta	125
Table 4.1 Major climatic and political events in the Golconda-Masulipatnam region, 1682-1710	139
Table 4.2 Population groups in Golepalem, 1692	148
Table 4.3 Masulipatnam: arrival and departure of ships, 1696-1714	152
Table 4.4 Masulipatnam: Import goods and balance, 1702-1712	157
Table 4.5 Export of textiles from Coromandel and their value, 1691-1713	160
Table 4.6 Price per pack of textiles exported by the VOC from Coromandel, 1691-1713	163
Table 5.1 Major climatic and political events in central and southern Coromandel, 1689- 1710	186
Table 5.2 Inventory of weaving villages around Tanjore in the Kaveri delta, 1695	192

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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.