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Eighteenth-century Gujarat : the dynamics of its political economy, 1750-1800

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Glossary

<i>bajra</i> or <i>bajri</i> :	a specie of millet, spiked or tall grown as a dry crop in many parts of India.
<i>bale</i> :	a measure of weight equal to half of a <i>candy</i>
<i>bania</i> :	the Hindu mercantile community of Gujarat.
<i>batila</i> :	a sort of boat used in western India, Sindh and Bengal. It had invariably a square stern and a long grab-like head.
<i>batta</i> :	money for subsistence given by a creditor to a debtor.
<i>batty</i> :	a variety of rice or paddy.
<i>bazaar</i> :	daily market held in Surat at the <i>maidan</i> (garden) in front of the castle especially during the trading seasons. There were many other places where such markets were held in Surat and in other cities and production centres.
<i>calico</i> :	cotton cloth of fine texture
<i>candy</i> or <i>khandi</i> :	a European corruption of the Indian word <i>khandi</i> , meaning a lump. A measure of weight, three <i>khandies</i> made one deadweight ton..
<i>cartaz</i> :	license issued by the Portuguese authorities to local ships sailing in the Indian ocean
<i>charkha</i> :	a wooden instrument consisting of two rollers with a small gap between them, used for cleaning raw cotton. Also used for spinning yarn.
<i>chintz</i> :	a printed and/or hand painted cotton fabric
<i>corgis</i> :	a mercantile term for a 'score' a bundle of 20 pieces of cloth
<i>dadani</i> :	comes from the Persian word <i>dadan</i> (to give), refers to a system of cash advances
<i>daryai</i> :	a kind of silk cloth prepared with gum
<i>dingis</i> :	a small boat or skiff dug out of a single trunk, also used for vessels of different size and war boats
<i>divani</i> :	revenue rights
<i>Diwali</i> or <i>Deepawali</i> :	Hindu festival of lights, falls between October 15 and November 14
<i>furza</i> :	the Mughal customs-house at Surat
<i>ghurab</i> :	a fighting ship used on the western coast of India mainly by the Maratha privateers. It was a square-rigged ship with two or three masts and armed with about twenty ships.
<i>gumasthas</i> :	a merchant's agent.
Heren XVII:	Gentlemen XVII, refers to the seventeen directors representing the six chambers of the Dutch East India Company.
<i>Holi</i> :	the Hindu spring festival of colours, usually observed in the month of March
<i>hundi</i> :	a credit note, a bill of exchange.
<i>Id</i> or <i>Eid</i> :	a Muslim festival marking the end of the month of fasting.
<i>khicheri</i> :	a mixture of rice, cooked with butter and <i>dal</i> (lentil); common food in India noted by many foreign travellers
<i>jaggery</i> / <i>jagri</i> :	coarse brown-sugar made from the juice of various palms, <i>khajur</i> (date).
<i>jamadar</i> :	a chief or leader of a band or body of persons, especially in the native army of India, an officer of a rank corresponding to that of lieutenant in the English army.
Jain:	a follower of Jain religion
<i>jonar</i> or <i>joar</i> :	one of the best and most frequently grown of the tall millets, a kind of pulse, the food of common people in western India.
<i>keesdar</i> :	a type of cloth manufactured mainly in Cambay
<i>kos</i> :	a popular measure of distance in India, roughly equivalent to about 2 English miles.
<i>latty</i> :	the English customs-house at Surat
<i>mahajan</i> :	a corporate merchant body
<i>mahal</i> :	a territorial unit equivalent to pargana used mainly in the collection of revenue.

<i>Marwaris:</i>	a community of merchants from Marwar in north-western India, also synonymous with bania as many of them came originally from Marwar.
<i>modi:</i>	a title for the person who looked after the logistics of the Dutch Company at Surat by taking care of the provisions for the personnel of the establishment, repair and maintenance of the factory and warehouses, etc. or any other work not under the purview of the broker and the supplier of merchandise.
<i>moth:</i>	pulse, a type of lentil
<i>mung:</i>	pulse, a type of lentil
<i>muqaddam:</i>	a headman of a village responsible for the realisation of the revenue; the local head of a caste (chaudhuri); the headman of a body of peons or a gang of labourers.
<i>nagarseth:</i>	an honorific title given to a prominent Indian merchant, meaning 'the (chief) city merchant'
<i>nagli:</i>	a grain
<i>nakhuda:</i>	an Indo-Islamic word used for a ship's captain or owner
<i>nasq:</i>	a mode of revenue assessment and collection in which assessment was made on the basis of estimated yield per unit of land. The demand could be the converted into cash and fixed on cultivators.
<i>nauroz:</i>	New Year's day, the first day of the solar year. In western India, this was observed by the Parsis.
<i>pargana:</i>	an administrative sub-division, every <i>sarkars</i> was divided into a number of <i>parganas</i> .
<i>Parsi:</i>	a member of the close-knit Zoroastrian community based primarily in India.
<i>parvu or purvo:</i>	a popular title of the writer caste in western India, usually used for any native who could write English and was employed in any office.
<i>patel:</i>	the headman of a village, having general control of village affairs, and forming the medium of communication with the officers of the government.
<i>puchuk:</i>	a Malay word for a fragrant root, a medicinal herb, a product of the Himalayas in the vicinity of Kashmir, exported to Malay countries and China.
<i>qaz:</i>	an Islamic judge
<i>qiladar:</i>	commander of a castle
<i>sabukar:</i>	moneylender, banker
<i>sarkar:</i>	an administrative unit in which every suba was divided
<i>suba:</i>	a province
<i>sarang:</i>	a native boatswain, or chief of a lascar; the skipper of a small native vessel.
<i>tandil:</i>	Indo-Islamic word for the chief of sailors on a ship; the head or commander of a body of men but also a native petty officer of lascar.
<i>zamindar:</i>	a person who had the hereditary right to collect revenues from a village or a group of villages, often designated as a tax-collector by the Mughal state; a subordinate political official, often an independent little king; a landlord under British rule.