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Fort Cochin in Kerala 1750-1830 : the social condition of a Dutch community in an Indian milieu

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STELLINGEN

behorende bij het proefschrift van Anjana Singh

Fort Cochin in Kerala 1750-1830
The Social Condition of a Dutch Community
in an Indian Milieu

1. Colonial cities and towns were often a melting pot of peoples and culture. [Jean Gelman Taylor, *The Social World of Batavia; European and Eurasian in Dutch Asia* (Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1983)]
2. The sources of income of the Malabar Command testify that in the second half of the 18th century the Malabar Command was much more than a merchant-warrior pacified. [George D. Winius and Marcus P. M. Vink, *The Merchant-Warrior Pacified: The Dutch East India Company and its Changing Political Economy in India* (Delhi: Oxford, 1994)].
3. Although according to modern systems of accounting, the account-books of the Malabar Command (*staatrekeningen*) do not indicate real profit or loss, they nonetheless show unprecedented profits between 1750 and 1780.
4. By joining hand with the mestizo women and the Malabar merchants, the European company servants of the VOC benefited from their social and economic networks in the region.
5. By marrying Roman Catholic women of Cochin, the European servants of the VOC in the Malabar Command made clear that, being Protestant counted little in their private lives.
6. Social life in Cochin did not change drastically after the VOC was replaced by the EIC.
7. Van Leur's review "On the eighteenth century as a category in Indonesian History" paradoxically led to a neglect of the period of transition between the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries.
8. In contrast to the European idea, the concepts of medieval and early modern history of India, are one sided and obscure the unique nature of this period.
9. The fact that both the EIC and the VOC were backed by their sovereigns, proves that economic empires were political, from the very beginning.
10. By composing eighteenth century *rederijersgedichten* (rhetoric poems) the Dutch elites of British Cochin hung on to their common Dutch culture.
11. The quality of ground water in Fort Cochin is as bad today, as it was in the VOC times.
12. A good start to understanding Dutch language, culture and people is reading Fokke and Sukke cartoons. A giant step forward is to comprehend and find humour in them.