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## **The Agency of Empire: personal connections and individual strategies in the shaping of the French Early Modern Expansion (1686-1746)**

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## Stellingen – Propositions

1. Being director of French early modern chartered companies provided access to markets under monopoly for private purposes.
2. The goal of French early modern chartered companies was less oriented towards economic efficiency, and more towards offering a platform for individual agency to stimulate the expanding early empire.
3. Warfare and competition in Europe cannot be projected onto a setting where European overseas companies relied on overseas directors' connections for the resilience of its factories.
4. Overseas directors' personal networks refutes the historiographical opposition between the interests of early modern chartered companies and private merchants.
5. The fact that direct lines of communication between the directors of Pondichéry and Juda were never created points out the limitations of local agencies.
6. Mutually beneficial agreements between private merchants and overseas directors were based interpersonal relations of loyalty.
7. Studying overseas directors' agency further demonstrates the weak position of the French in the political and economic context in India and on the west coast of Africa during the early eighteenth century.
8. A solution to overcome the bias of nationalist views in sources is to diversify the perspectives by consulting sources from different countries and different languages.
9. Irrational and fake fears are a great obstacle to human solidarity.
10. Our way of life will make it easy for historians of the future to study the origins of the destruction of our planet.