

Decay or defeat ? : an inquiry into the Portuguese decline in Asia 1580-1645

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Glossary

Alfândega(P) Customs office

Almiranta(Sp) The admiral's ship

Almirantazgo(Sp) Admiralty

Alvará(P) Royal order

Arbitrista(Sp,P) Writer of letters or books, often

directed to the king, advising him what should be done to improve the

state of affairs in Spain, Portugal or

the overseas settlements.

Armada (Sp) War fleet

Arribada (P) Ship that had to return to port of

departure

Asentista (Sp) Banker or merchant, providing loans to

the Royal treasury

Asiento (Sp) Contract for a loan to the treasury

Bakufu Group of 'vasals'in power in Japan

Bewindhebbers (D) Administrators, directors

Burguesia (P) Middle classes

Cáfila Large fleets of small indigenous

boats, travelling and trading along

the West Coast of India

Capitana (Sp) Ship with the second in command on

board

Capitão (plural Capitães)(P) Captain (s)

Capitão mór Major captain of a town or a fleet

Capitania (P) Position of captain or governor

Capítulos (Sp, P) Demands or suggestions from the three

estates, brought forward to the King

during a meeting of the Cortes

Carreira da India (P) Portuguese passage to India

Carta regia (Sp) Letter from the king

Cartaz Pass, offering safe conduct to

merchants and ships

Casa da Contratación (Sp) House from where the business of the

silver fleet was managed and where the

silver was received

Casa da India (P) House of India

Casa da Moeda (P) Mint

Casa del Rei Inner circle around the King

('Hausmacht')

Casado Married person

Casamentos Royal allowances to his vasals

Castiços Offspring of 'pure' Portuguese descent

Cavaleiro Knight
Clientes (L) Vassals
Commandeur (D) Commander

Consejo de Estado (Sp) State council

Consulado (P) Three per cent tax on imports and

exports, as a contribution towards the costs of protecting Portuguese

shipping near the coast

Cortes Meeting of the three estates

Cristãos novos P) New Christians, mostly descendants of

the Jews who at the end of the 15th century were converted to Christianity

Concelho da Fazenda(P) Council of the Treasury

Conquistas (P.Sp) Territories conquered by the Iberians
Conversos (Sp) Converts to Christianity or

descendants thereof

Descobrimentos (P) Discoveries

Dízima (P) Ten per cent duty on imports and

exports within Europe

Donativo (Sp, P) 'Gift' brought together on request of

the king

EIC East Indian Company

Encabezamiento (Sp) Personal royal allowance

Engenho (P) Sugar mill
Ensaios Essays

Estado State administration

Estado da India (P) Government and administration in India

Fidalgo (P) Nobleman, either by birth or by

appointment

Firman (Persian)	Permit issued by Indian rulers
Fluit ship (D)	A higly efficient ship in terms of
	freight capacity and manpower
	requirements, developed towards the
	end of the 16th century
Galiota (P)	Small galley
Gente da nação (P)	Jews or New Christians
Hacienda (Sp)	Treasury
Heeren XVII (D)	Gentlemen XVII, the directors of the
	VOC
Hidalgo (Sp)	Nobleman
Hidalguía (Sp)	Nobility
Homenagem (P)	Promise of chivalrous fidelity and
	subservience to the king
Hongi voyages	Naval expeditions in the Moluccas with
	the aim to destroy the villages and
	agricultural fields of the enemy, also
	adopted by the VOC
Ilha P), Isla (Sp)	Island
<pre>Infante(Sp, P)</pre>	Title of son of the king
Invernada(P)	Ship that had to 'hibernate' halfway
	the voyage, waiting for the right wind
Jornada dos vasalos(Sp)	Voyage of the vassals, directed
	against the Dutch occupation of
	Bahia
Junta(Sp)	Advisory group to the king
Juro Sp,P)	Annuity
Karveel D)	Dutch ship
Lascarins	Ceylonese native auxiliaries, lending
	their services in exchange for the use
	of land
Lançados	Portuguese who had escaped from the
	authority of the Estado da India
Légua	Mile
Leis de limpeza de sangue(P)	Laws based on the purity of blood
Leyes de limpieza de sangre(Sp)	Idem

Clean

Limpia(Sp,P)

Mamelucos	Luso-indian offspring of South
	Brazilian slave raiders
Maravedí	Spanish unit of account
Mare Liberum	Freedom of the seas
Mestiços	Offspring from mixed marriages in Asia
Misericórdias	Institutes that took care of the poor
Moriscos (Sp)	'Moors', converted Muslims in Spain
Ouvidor de capa e espada (P)	Judge with 'cloak and sword', also
	able to act as captain of the army
Padroado real(P)	Patronage of the crown, mainly related
	to the missionary activities in Asia
Pagaduría General(Sp)	Office in Brussels, responsible for
	the supplies and payments to the
	Spanish troops
Patronus(L)	Patron
Pedido (Sp,P)	Royal request to the three estates for
	a financial contribution
Povo(P)	The 'people', the third estate
Privado(Sp)	Confidential advisor to the king
Procuradores(P)	Representatives of the municipal
	councils in the Cortes
Quintal(P)	Measure of weight, approximately 50
	kilograms
Quinto (Sp,P)	Tax on goods imported from overseas or
	on booty. Literally: one fifth, i.e.
	20 per cent
Rei inquisitador(Sp)	The king inquisitor, Cardinal Dom
	Henrique
Réis vizinhos(P)	'Neighbour kings', the indigenous
	rulers with whom the Portuguese in
	India had a contract
Repartição da pimenta (P)	Pepper allotment
Reputación (Sp), reputação (P)	Reputation
Restauração (P)	The restoration of Portuguese
	independence in 1640
Samorin, sâmundri	Ruler of Calicut

Senado da Camara (P)

Senate of the municipality, chosen by

the citizens of Macao

Senhores de engenho (P) Gentlemen of the sugar

Shogun The most powerful of the emperor's

vassals in Japan

Shuin system System of vermillion permits allowing

Japanese subjects to export Japanese

goods and import foreign goods

Sisa (P) Inland sales tax of 10 per cent

Soldados (P) Bachelors who arrived in India, with

obligation to lend services as

soldiers, if required

Soldado prático (P) Real soldier

Tierra Firme (Sp) Mainland, as opposed to the Caribbean

islands and Mexico

Tonelada (P) Measure of a ship's capacity based on

the number of wine casks it could

carry

Ton Measure of a ship's capacity based on

the metric tons of grain it could carry

Tributo (Sp,P) Tribute

Valido (Sp) Confidential advisor to the king

Vasallos (Sp). Vassalos (P) Vassals, nobility directly dependent

on the king

Vedores da Fazenda (P) Inspectors of the treasury

Vellón (Sp) Silver-copper alloy used in coins

Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie (D) United East India Company

Vereador (P) Fiscal or inspector

VOC United East India Company

West Indische Compagnie Dutch West Indian Company