

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

The Rise and Fall of the Dutch East India Company and Its Accounting System



2026 **1/31** Sat.
13:00-17:30

Building 3, Room 808,
Waseda University
(Waseda Campus)

Program

13:00 Introduction: Jōji NOZAWA (Waseda University)

Part I 13:15-14:45

- 1. The Decline of the Dutch East India Company:
Global Comparisons, Connections and Beyond**
Chris NIERSTRASZ (Erasmus University Rotterdam)
- 2. Comments and Questions:**
Norifumi DAITŌ (University of Tokyo)

Coffee Break

Part II 15:15-17:15

- 3. The Rise of the Cowrie Trade by the Dutch East India
Company from an Environmental Perspective**
Yūsuke YOSHIOKA (University of Tokyo)
- 4. Living Cargo over the Sea:
The Dutch East India Company's Elephant Tribute to the
Mughals in Bengal, c. 1700**
Chisa MIZOBUCHI (University of Tokyo)
- 5. VOC's Pass System and Merchants in Surat, c. 1610-1685**
Shinsaku KATŌ (Shiga University)
- 6. The Opium Society and Commercial Recovery in Batavia:
After the 1740 Chinese Massacre**
Shōhei ŌKUBO (Ryukoku University)

17:15 Conclusion: Ryūto SHIMADA (University of Tokyo)



Organized by Grant-in-Aid for Scientific
Research (C) (24K05213)

主催: 科研費基盤研究(C) (24K05213)「会計帳簿に
よる嗜好品貿易の実証分析: オランダ東インド会社の
盛衰と会計システム」(代表: 橋本武久 京都産業大学)

科研費
KAKENHI

No registration required. For more details
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The Decline of the Dutch East India Company: Global Comparisons, Connections and Beyond

Abstract

If we aim to understand why the Dutch East India company (VOC) went into decline, we need to move beyond the conventional story of European monopoly companies and colonial empires. There is evidence that the VOC became more liberal towards private trade, indicating a complex relationship between its monopoly and its employees and subjects. Its tea and textiles were smuggled across Europe by merchants from other countries, indicating the fluidity of trade across borders and boundaries.

Trade statistics have helped establish new connections between the rise of the British and Dutch colonial empires in Asia, textile production in India, the commercialization of tea production in China on the one hand, and the popularization of Asian consumption goods in Europe, the American Revolution and the Industrial Revolution on the other.

New ways of calculation allow new and subtler insights into links between Asia and Europe; for example into the extent to which a drain of wealth existed after the establishment of British colonial empire and how it evolved over time. VOC trade statistics can also be related to changes in the weather, particularly periods of drought, which allow for less Eurocentric explanations for widespread social conflict on the island of Java.

Chris Nierstrasz is a Dutch historian and Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research focuses on early modern global trade, particularly the commercial and cultural exchange between Asia and Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. He holds a PhD from Leiden University (2008), followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Warwick (2010-2014), where he participated in the "Europe's Asian Centuries, trading Eurasia" project investigating the tea and textile trades of the Dutch, English and French East India Companies.

He has published several influential works, including books such as *In the Shadow of the Company: The Dutch East India Company and its Servants in the Period of its Decline 1740-1796* (Brill, 2012), *Rivalry in Trade for Tea and Textiles, The English and Dutch East India Companies 1700-1800* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), and numerous articles and reviews in this field.



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