

## Credit Recovery 1<sup>st</sup> Semester World History DBQ

### Portugal and the Indian Ocean Trade, 1500s

**Evaluate the extent to which the Portuguese transformed maritime trade in the Indian Ocean in the 1500s.**

In your essay you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.  
**(Thesis – Paragraph 1)**
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.  
**(Contextualization – Paragraph 2)**
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least 4 documents.  
**(Describe and use evidence from at least 6 documents – Paragraphs 3 and 4)**
- Use at least one additional piece of specific historical evidence relevant to an argument about the prompt.  
**(Outside Evidence – Within paragraphs 3 or 4)**
- For at least three documents, explain the document’s Intended Audience and/or Purpose  
**(A/P – Within paragraphs 3 and/or 4)**

#### **Thesis/Claim**

Responses to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning. The thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt rather than simply restating or rephrasing the prompt.

**The following thesis statements meet standard. You may use ONE of them for your essay OR write your own. If you choose to use one of the following thesis statements, make sure to give evidence to prove each claim throughout your essay.**

**Underline each specific claim that needs to be proven throughout the essay:**

- Although the arrival of the Portuguese was a very important change in Indian Ocean maritime trade in the sixteenth century, it did not completely transform the trade, as the Portuguese never extended their control beyond a few ports and had to compete with Indian merchants and regional states such as the Ottoman Empire and the Sultanate of Aceh.
- The Portuguese brought a few changes to the Indian Ocean trading networks but most Indian goods, including spices, continued to be traded locally, or to Middle Eastern and Chinese markets, as they had been for centuries before.
- The Portuguese transformed maritime trade in Indian Ocean in the sixteenth century by taxing non-Portuguese ships that traded in the region.

## Portugal and the Indian Ocean Trade Background Info / RESOURCES (view prior to starting work):

- The Silk Road: Connecting the ancient world through trade (Possible contextualization comparing trade routes) <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-silk-road-history-s-first-world-wide-web-shannon-harris-castelo>
- Indian Ocean Trade Routes (Possible outside evidence) Great Zimbabwe Video <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/who-built-great-zimbabwe-and-why-breeanna-elliott>
- Int'l Commerce, Snorkeling Camels, and The Indian Ocean Trade: Crash Course World History #18 (Background information about the Indian Ocean Trade before Portugal showed up) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6XtBLDmPA0>
- Columbus, de Gama, and Zheng He! 15<sup>th</sup> Century Mariners. Crash Course: World History #21 (Indian Ocean Trade as Portugal shows up... and a bunch of other stuff) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjEGncridoQ&t=2s>
- European Maritime Exploration (Possible contextualization and/or outside evidence)
- Pictures: Ships, Astrolabe, Maps, Etc. (1:30 – 2:10) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8oWGwcdFmA>
- Background Information on the Indian Ocean Trade (Possible contextualization and outside evidence)
- How Magellan circumnavigated the globe (Possible contextualization and/or outside evidence) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pFdiX8mj0Es> (0:00 – 1:55)
- The Dutch East India Company established (Possible contextualization and/or outside evidence) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZL32IWD5Fk>

### Documents to Analyze using the chart on pages 5-6

#### Document 1

Source: *Advice given in 1500 by the Muslim merchants of Calicut to the Hindu ruler of Calicut concerning the arrival of the second Portuguese expedition to the city. Recorded in the History of the Discovery and Conquest of India by the Portuguese by Fernão Lopes de Castanheda, a Portuguese historian, published in 1551.*

Your Majesty: we are astonished that you should lower yourself by receiving these Portuguese enemies into your kingdom, who seem to be pirates rather than merchants. We, your Muslim subjects, have always been loyal to you and have brought valuable foreign merchandise to this country and have exported its native products to increase your revenue greatly. You appear to forget all this, by receiving those newcomers into your favor as if your own numerous and faithful subjects were incompetent for the purpose. In this you dishonor yourself, and embolden these strangers to hold your power in contempt.

The true intent of the Portuguese in coming into these seas is to take possession of your city, and not to trade for spices as they pretend. The place you have given them for a trading post, they will convert into a fort, from where they will make war on you when you least expect it. We say these things to you out of good will rather than out of any desire for profit; for if you do not listen to our advice, there are other cities on India's Malabar Coast from which we can conduct our trade in spices.

## **Document 2**

Source: *Duarte Barbosa, government official employed in a Portuguese trading-post on the Malabar Coast, travel narrative published in Portugal in 1516.*

The Muslims in Calicut are rich, and live well, and they used to control all the sea trade from that town. Indeed, if the king of Portugal had not discovered India, Malabar would already have been in the hands of the Muslims.

In addition to the local Muslims, there are also foreign Muslims in Calicut such as Arabs, Persians, and Gujaratis. They are great merchants, sail to all parts of the world with their goods, and have their own Muslim leader who rules over them and disciplines them as necessary, without the Hindu king of Calicut meddling with them. And before the king of Portugal discovered the country, the Muslim traders were so numerous and powerful in the city of Calicut that the Hindus did not dare to enter into disputes with them.

And after the king of Portugal made himself master there, and these Muslims saw that they could not defend their position there, they began to leave Calicut, so that very few of them remain today.

## **Document 3**

Source: *Anonymous Portuguese court official's letter of advice to King Sebastian of Portugal regarding a proposal to conclude a peace treaty and establish free trade with the Ottoman Empire, mid-1560s.*

If the Turks were allowed to travel freely to India, and establish their own trading-posts, and trade in merchandise wherever they wished, Your Majesty's own profits would suffer greatly. If that were to happen, all of the business handled by our merchants would immediately fall to the Turks because their empire is much closer to India. The duration of their voyages, their transportation costs, the risks they would face, and the damage they would sustain to their ships and their merchandise would be less than half of that suffered by our own ships.

Portugal's state monopoly in pepper and other controlled spices would also be threatened by allowing the Turks to establish trade in India. Even now, when they have not been able to openly compete against us, it is known that they conduct trade in secret, carrying spices to Persia, Bengal, Southeast Asia, and China, and especially to their own markets, despite our efforts to stop them.

Thus, if the Turks are allowed to operate freely, their ties with local Muslims would make them even better informed and better organized than us, so that they could send as much pepper as they wanted by means of the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, and become masters of the lion's share of the trade in spices.

## **Document 4**

Source: *Alauddin Riayat Syah al-Kahar, ruler of the Sultanate of Aceh, a Muslim state on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, letter to the Ottoman sultan Suleiman I, 1566.*

It is our firm belief that if your Majesty better understood the circumstances of Aceh and our long struggle against the miserable Portuguese infidels, your Imperial compassion would be awakened. As you know, the pilgrim and merchant vessels from all the ports of Indonesia must pass through the Maldivian Islands on their way to Mecca and the Red Sea, and between all 24,000 Maldivian Islands, there are just four channels where a ship can pass safely. The infidel Portuguese wait around the entrances of these channels. When our ships arrive there, the Portuguese stop and take possession of as many as they can. Any ship they cannot capture they sink with cannon fire, either leaving the Muslims aboard to drown, or capturing and enslaving them.

The Portuguese have even dared attack Ottoman ships belonging to your Majesty. For example, in the year 1565, your officials came to Aceh and left for Istanbul loaded with pepper, silk, cinnamon, cloves, and other products

from Indonesia. Portuguese vessels intercepted the ship at the Maldives and sank it. Five hundred Muslims drowned, and the rest were enslaved.

So, we request that your Imperial Majesty grant us siege cannons and ask that you instruct the Ottoman governors of Egypt and Aden to allow our representatives to come to your Majesty's illustrious court and obtain all the horses, armor, and other weapons that we will need for our defense against the Portuguese.

### **Document 5**

Source: *Zainudeen Makhdoom Al Sageer, Muslim religious scholar and historian from Calicut, southern India, address to southern Indian Muslims, written circa 1570.*

After the Portuguese had established themselves in Cochin on the Malabar Coast, they forced every vessel, however small, to carry a safe conduct pass, which was issued for a certain fee. The Portuguese, in imposing this toll, claimed that it would improve commerce. To enforce the toll, they seized the cargo and crew of any ship that did not have its pass!

In addition to this system of persecution, the Portuguese deployed ships all over the Indian Ocean to lie in wait and intercept vessels. In this way, they unjustly acquired vast wealth and captured countless prisoners.

Soon, as a result of his lengthy conflict with the Portuguese, the ruler of our city of Calicut almost entirely exhausted his treasure and resources and his kingdom became strained to the limit. Because he was tired of war, the prince entered into a treaty in 1515 allowing the Portuguese to build a fort in Calicut in exchange for allowing his subjects to send four ships every year to Arabian ports. Afterward, the Portuguese set about building their fortifications, while the merchants of Calicut prepared four ships loaded with pepper and ginger for dispatch to the Arabian coast and, at the same time, resumed trading with Gujarat and other foreign ports while carrying with them the passes from the Portuguese.

### **Document 6**

Source: *Cesare Federici, Venetian trader, The Voyage and Travel to East India, published in Venice, 1587.*

In the city of Cambay in northwestern India, Hindu brokers of great authority have traditionally handled all transactions at the port, and the Portuguese merchants observe this custom. Every foreign merchant who does business in the country has his own broker who works with him in buying and selling his merchandise. When a new fleet of ships sails into port at Cambay, the brokers come to the dock and the foreign merchants give them all their cargo. The merchants carefully note all the bundles and packs of goods that they are giving to the brokers, and the brokers command their servants to take the merchants and lodge them in one of the many houses kept for this purpose; the broker says to the merchant, "Go and take your rest, while I conduct your trade."

After Goa, Cochin is the most important base the Portuguese have in southwestern India. Much of the merchandise destined for the kingdom of Portugal originates there. Inland from Cochin is the pepper-producing region. But the pepper that goes to Portugal from Cochin is not as good as the pepper that goes to Arabia and Persia because the Portuguese had made a contract with the king of Cochin to buy the pepper at a very low price. Because of that, the Indian pepper growers bring their worst produce to the Portuguese and sell them pepper that is green and full of filth.

**Document 7** Source: *Inlaid box made in Gujarat, India, for export to Portugal, circa 1600. Teak, ebony, and other precious hardwoods, with ivory details.*



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For the worksheet below, you need to complete all of the “Describe” and “Evidence” boxes and 3 of the “A/P” boxes. For your essay, you only need to describe and give evidence from at least 4 documents and A/P at least 3 documents.

**Evaluate the extent to which the Portuguese transformed maritime trade in the Indian Ocean in the 1500s.**

Document	Describe the Document	Evidence from the Document	Audience/Purpose (at least 3 documents)
1. Muslim merchants' advice to the ruler of Calicut (1500)	(Describe/Main Idea/Summarize)	(For example)	
2. Duarte Barbosa, account of Calicut (1516)		(For example)	
3. Anonymous Portuguese court official's advice to King Sebastian (mid-1560s)		(For example)	

4. Sultan Alauddin of Aceh, letter to the Ottoman sultan (1566)		(For example)	
5. Zainudeen Al Sageer, address to southern Indian Muslims (circa 1570)		(For example)	
6. Cesare Federici, <i>The Voyage and Travel to East India</i> (1587)		(For example)	
7. Inlaid box made in Gujarat for export to Portugal (circa 1600)		(For example)	
<b><u>HIPP – Historical Situation, Intended Audience, Purpose, Point of View</u></b>			

**Evaluate the extent to which the Portuguese transformed maritime trade in the Indian Ocean in the 1500s.**

**A. Thesis/Claim**

Responses to the prompt with a historically defensible thesis/claim that establishes a line of reasoning. The thesis must make a claim that responds to the prompt rather than simply restating or rephrasing the prompt.

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## B. Contextualization

Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt. The response must accurately and explicitly connect the context of the prompt to broader historical events, developments, or processes that occur before, during, or continue after the time frame of the question.

*Examples of context might include the following:*

- Indian Ocean had been the center of trade routes connecting India to East and SE Asia, E. Africa, Egypt and Arabia
- Portuguese naval advances (stronger ships allowing the Portuguese to engage in transoceanic trade)

**For this essay prompt, contextualization should accurately describe a context relevant to Portuguese impact and/or maritime trade in the Indian Ocean in the period before or during the arrival of the Portuguese.**

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