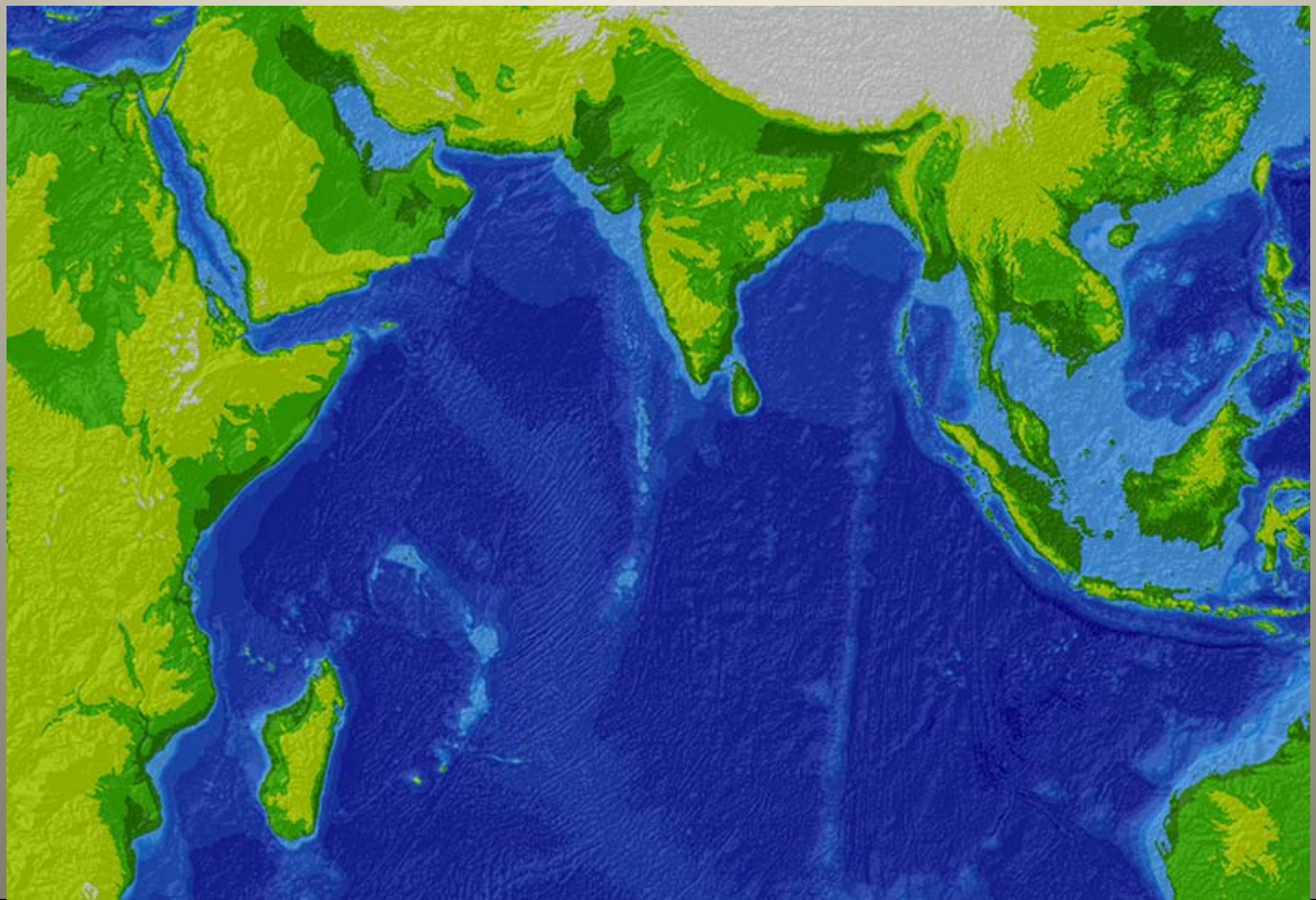
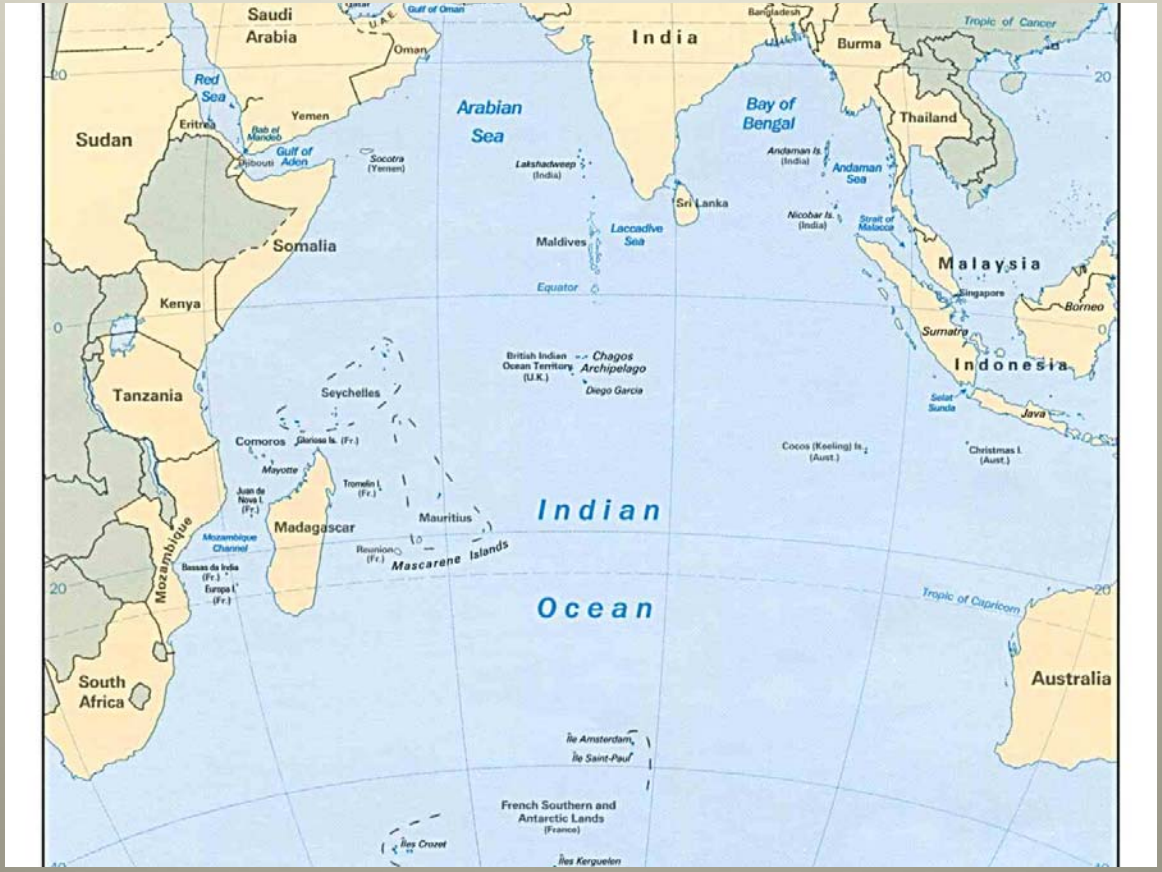
Merchant networks in the Indian Ocean: a historical perspective

Lakshmi Subramanian

The Indian Ocean




Saudi Arabia
Gulf of Oman
India
Bangladesh
Tropic of Cancer
Burma
Oman
Red Sea
Arabian Sea
Bay of Bengal
Thailand
Yemen
Sudan
Eritrea
Bab el Mandeb
Gulf of Aden
Djibouti
Socotra (Yemen)
Lakshadweep (India)
Andaman Is. (India)
Andaman Sea
Sri Lanka
Nicobar Is. (India)
Strait of Malacca
Laccadive Sea
Maldives
Somalia
Malaysia
Equator
Singapore
Kenya
Borneo
Sumatra
British Indian Ocean Territory (U.K.)
Chagos Archipelago
Diego Garcia
Indonesia
Seychelles
Tanzania
Selat Sunda
Java
Comoros
Glorioso Is. (Fr.)
Cocos (Keeling) Is. (Aust.)
Christmas I. (Aust.)
Mayotte
Tromelin I. (Fr.)
Juan de Nova I. (Fr.)
Indian
Mauritius
Madagascar
Mozambique Channel
Reunion (Fr.)
Mascarene Islands
Mozambique
Bassas da India (Fr.)
Europa I. (Fr.)
Ocean
Tropic of Capricorn
South Africa
Australia
Île Amsterdam
Île Saint-Paul
French Southern and Antarctic Lands (France)
Îles Crozet
Îles Kerguelen

The making of an Indian Ocean trade system

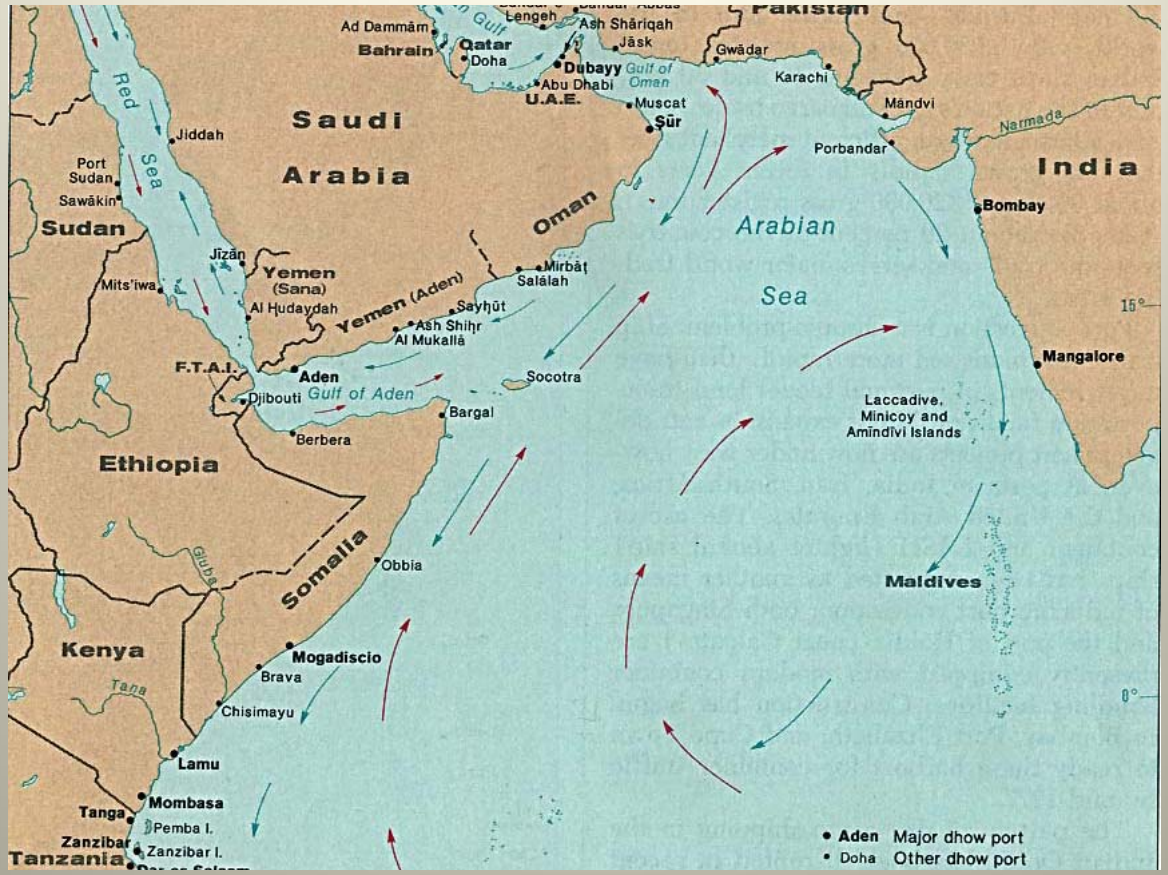
Monsoon and the economy of maritime Asia

Religion and ideas

Migration of people and movement of goods

Religion and religious networks _ Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam

Empires – Old and New


Red Sea
Saudi Arabia
Jiddah
Port Sudan
Sawākin
Sudan
Jīzān
Yemen (Sana)
Mits'iwa
Al Ḥudaydah
Yemen (Aden)
Sayḥūt
Ash Shiḥr
Al Mukallā
F.T.A.I.
Aden
Djibouti
Gulf of Aden
Berbera
Bargal
Ethiopia
Somalia
Obbia
Kenya
Mogadiscio
Brava
Chisimayu
Lamu
Mombasa
Tanga
Pemba I.
Zanzibar
Zanzibar I.
Tanzania
Ad Dammām
Bahrain
Qatar
Doha
Lengeh
Ash Shāriqah
Jāsk
Dubayy
Abu Dhabi
U.A.E.
Gulf of Oman
Muscat
Ṣūr
Oman
Mirbāṭ
Salālah
Socotra
Arabian Sea
Pakistan
Gwādar
Karachi
Māndvi
Narmada
Porbandar
India
Bombay
Mangalore
Laccadive, Minicoy and Amīndīvi Islands
Maldives
15°
0°
• Aden Major dhow port
• Doha Other dhow port

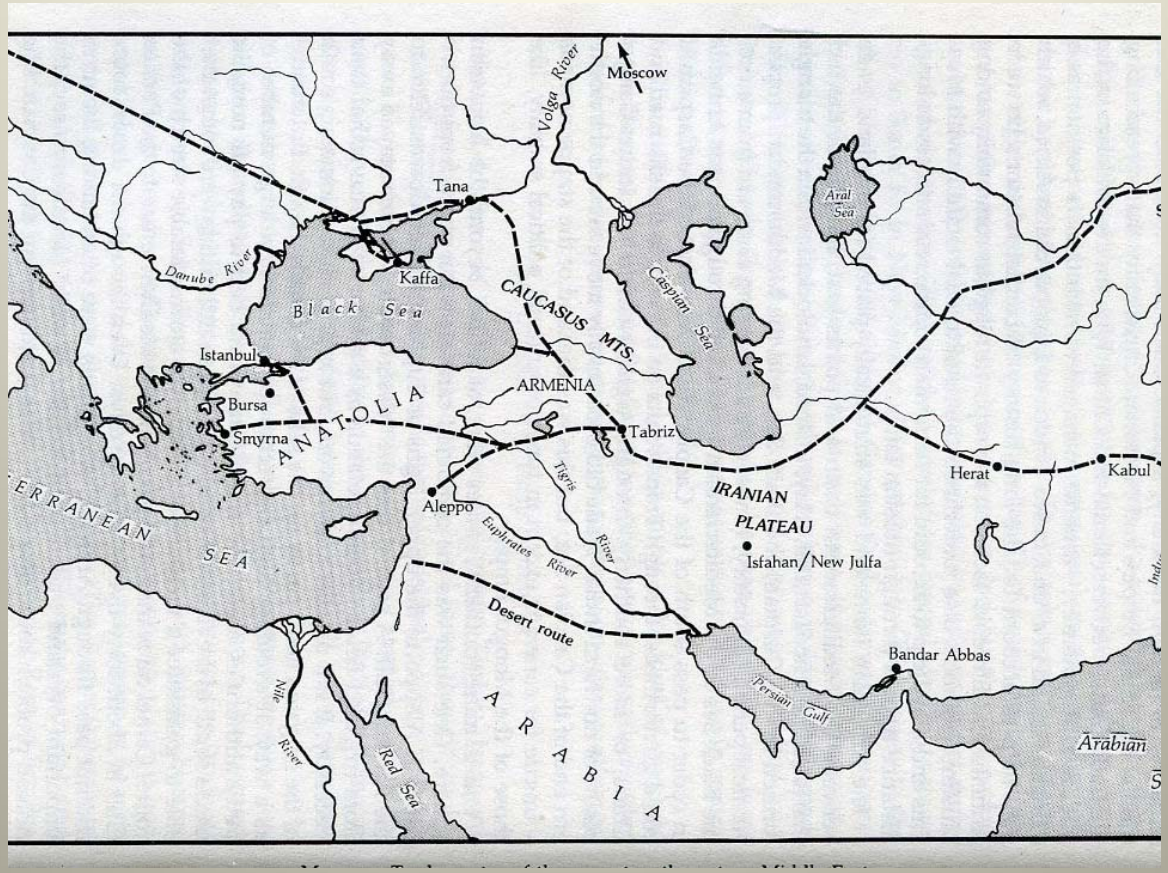
Merchant networks in history

Definition of networks

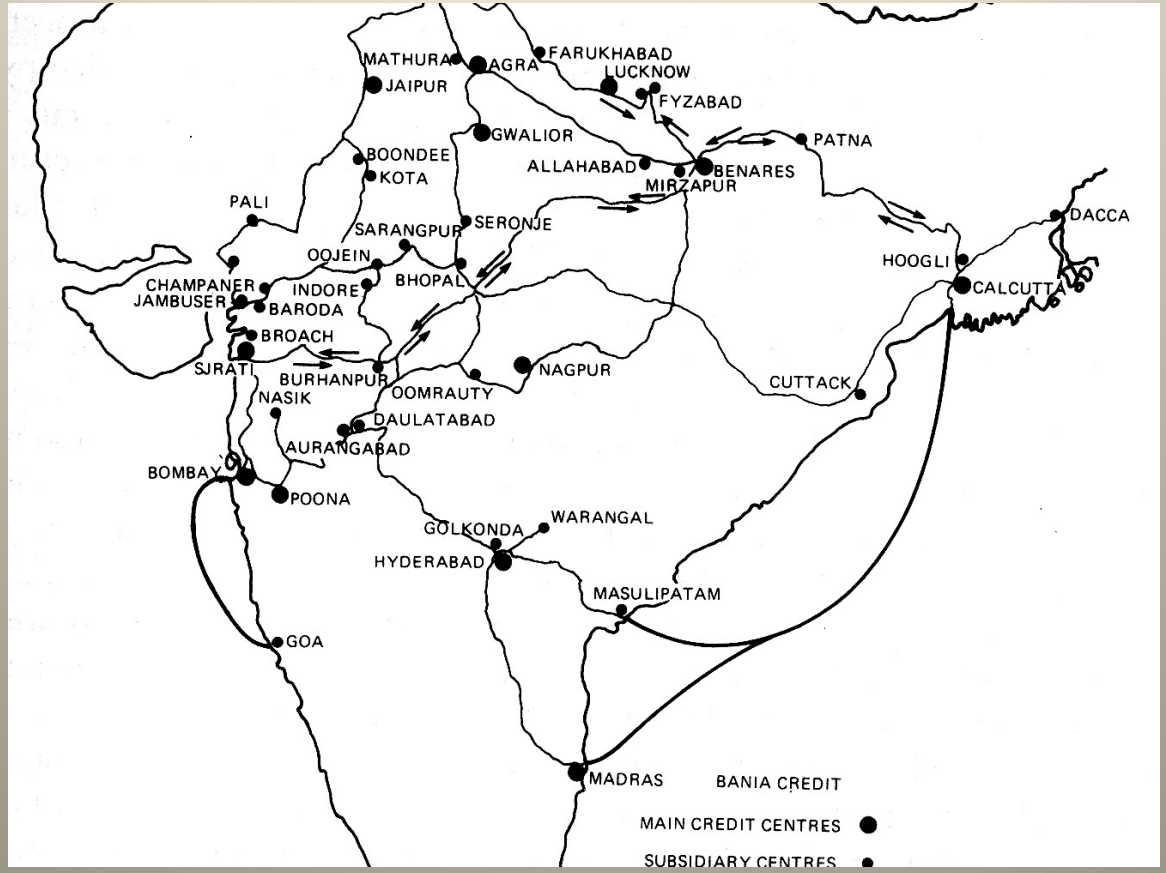
Merchant networks in history: some case studies

Functions of networks

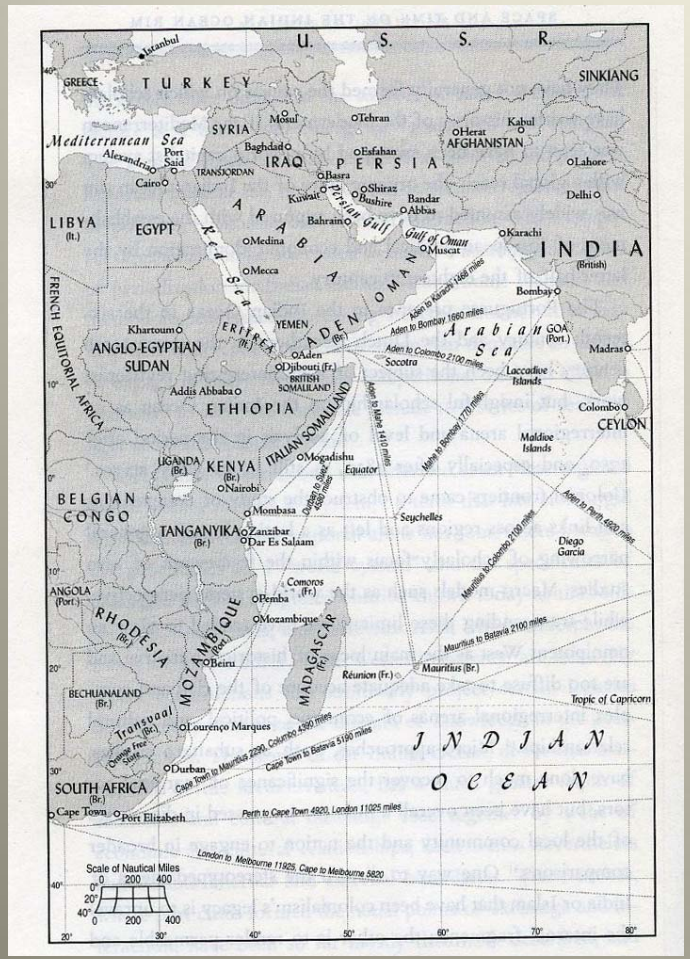
Strength and limits

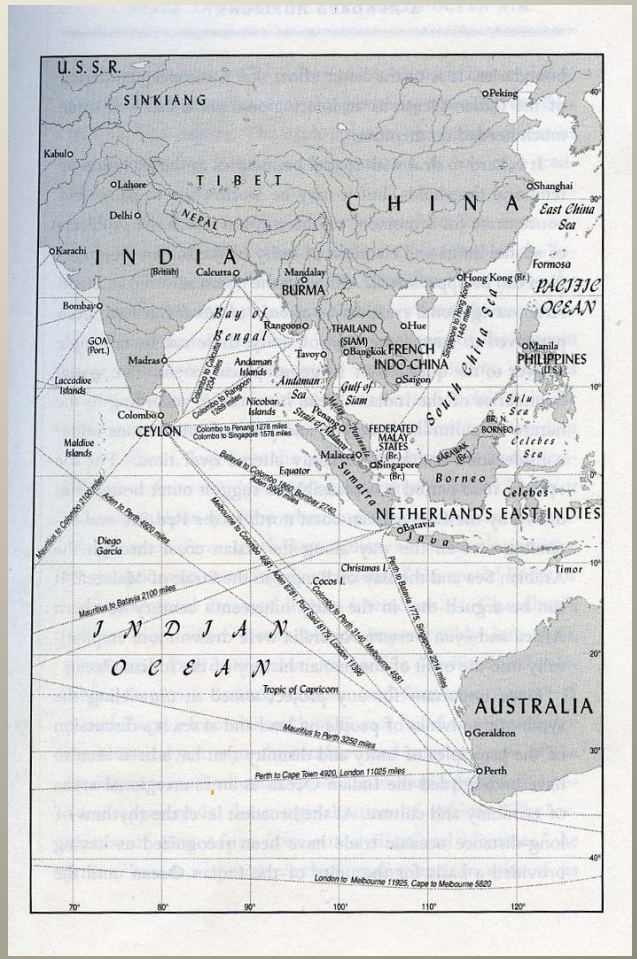


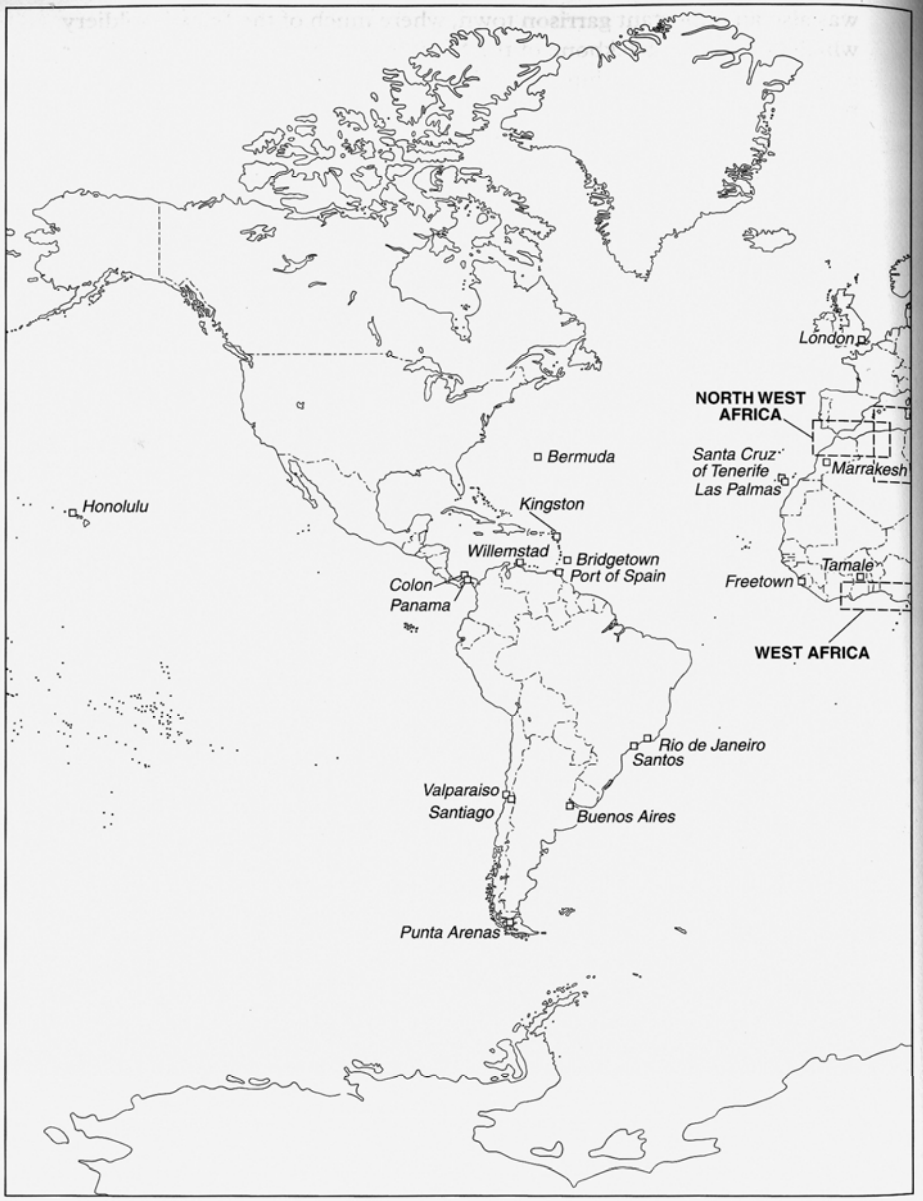
The Armenian Node at New Julfa

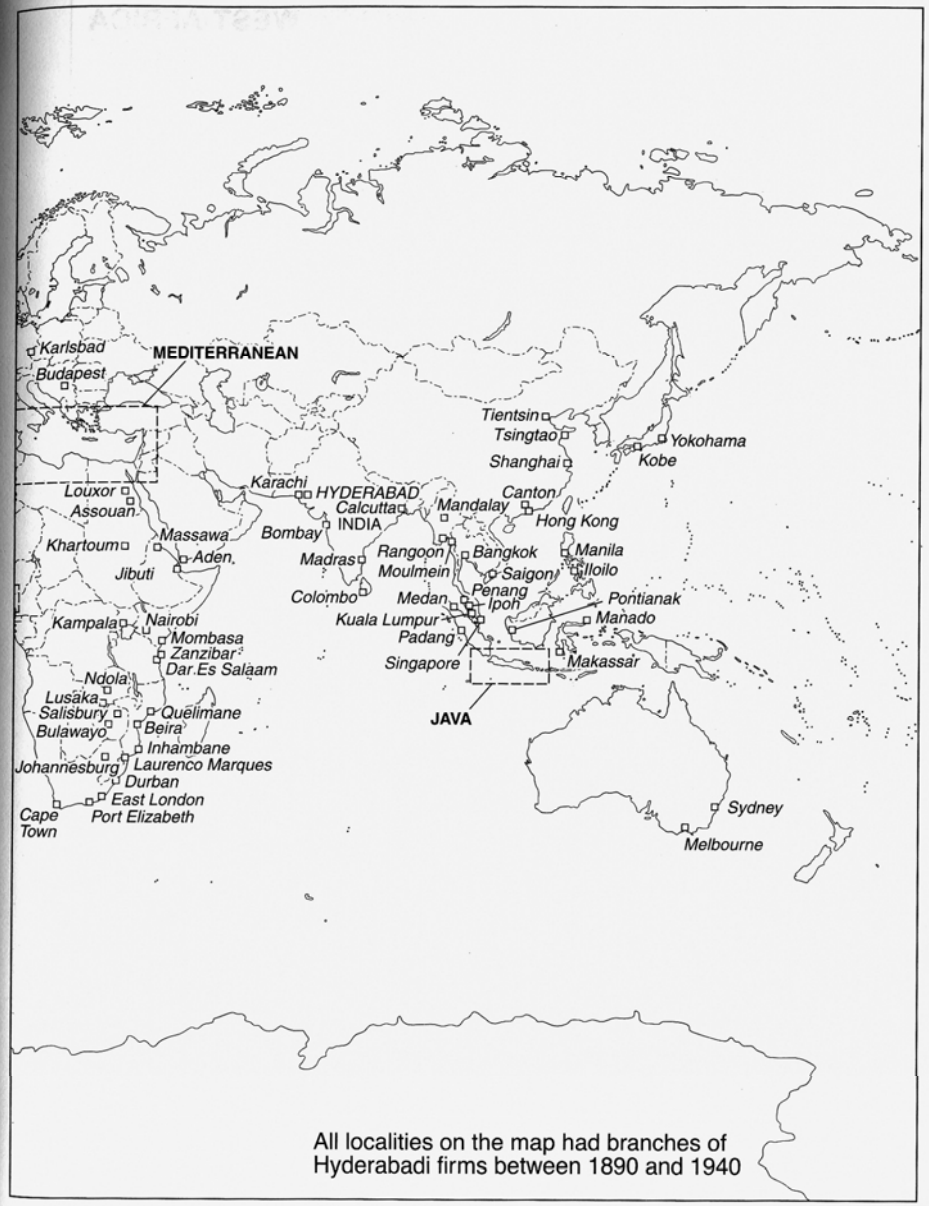

MATHURA
AGRA
FARUKHABAD
LUCKNOW
JAIPUR
FYZABAD
GWALIOR
PATNA
BOONDEE
ALLAHABAD
BENARES
KOTA
MIRZAPUR
PALI
DACCA
SARANGPUR
SERONJE
OOJEIN
HOOGLI
CHAMPANER
INDORE
BHOPAL
CALCUTTA
JAMBUSER
BARODA
BROACH
SJRATI
NAGPUR
BURHANPUR
CUTTACK
OOMRAUTY
NASIK
DAULATABAD
AURANGABAD
BOMBAY
POONA
WARANGAL
GOLKONDA
HYDERABAD
MASULIPATAM
GOA
MADRAS
BANIA CREDIT
MAIN CREDIT CENTRES
SUBSIDIARY CENTRES

The British Empire and the Indian Ocean









3 The Sindworkie network, *c.* 1890–1940
Source: Base Mondiale ESRI (DWC), C. Markovits, M. Legrand and F. Pirot,