

7 Island ORMUS, of JERUNA



# POWER STRUGGLES AND TRADE IN THE GULF

1620-1820

SULTAN BIN MUHAMMAD AL-QASIMI

# CONTENTS

<i>List of Tables</i> . . . . .	x
<i>Preface</i> . . . . .	xi
<i>Note on Transliteration</i> . . . . .	xii
<i>Glossary</i> . . . . .	xiii
<i>Maps</i> . . . . .	xxi
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	xxix
The aims of this study . . . . .	xxix
Source materials . . . . .	xxx
Choice of subject . . . . .	xxxiii
The general context . . . . .	xxxiv
The establishment of the English and Dutch settlements in the Gulf . . . . .	xxxiv
Anglo-Dutch rivalry . . . . .	xxxv
Currencies used in the book . . . . .	xxxvii
Local currencies . . . . .	xxxvii
European coinage . . . . .	xxxviii
CHAPTER 1: THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE GULF . . . . .	1
1.0 Introduction . . . . .	1
1.1 Naming the Gulf . . . . .	2
1.2 Surveys of the Gulf . . . . .	4
1.3 Surrounding topography, coasts, depths, islands and shoals . . . . .	4
1.3.1 The Arabian coast . . . . .	5
1.3.2 The Persian coast . . . . .	6
1.4 Climate . . . . .	7
1.4.1 Temperature . . . . .	7

POWER STRUGGLES AND TRADE IN THE GULF

1.4.2 Humidity . . . . .	8
1.4.3 Rainfall . . . . .	8
1.5 Winds, currents and tides . . . . .	8
1.5.1 Wind . . . . .	8
1.5.2 Currents . . . . .	9
1.5.3 Tides . . . . .	9
1.6 The effects of geography and meteorology on navigation in the Gulf, Persian coast and Arabian coast . . . . .	9
1.7 The preference for the Gulf route over the Red Sea . . . . .	10
1.8 Ports and harbours in the Gulf . . . . .	11
1.8.1 Pre-Islamic settlements . . . . .	11
1.8.2 Islamic settlements . . . . .	12
1.9 Trade in the Gulf . . . . .	13
1.9.1 General trade . . . . .	13
1.9.2 Pearl fishing . . . . .	13
1.10 The arrival of the Europeans in the Gulf . . . . .	14
1.10.1 The Portuguese . . . . .	15
1.10.2 The English . . . . .	16
1.10.3 The Dutch . . . . .	16
1.11 The decline of Hormuz . . . . .	16
1.11.1 The conflict between the Portuguese and English . . . . .	16
1.11.2 The occupation of Hormuz by the English and the Persians . . . . .	17
 CHAPTER 2: BANDAR ABBAS (1623–1763) . . . . .	 18
2.0 Introduction . . . . .	18
2.1 Geographical background . . . . .	21
2.2 The establishment of European factories at Bandar Abbas . . . . .	22
2.2.1 The establishment of the English factory at Bandar Abbas . . . . .	22
2.2.2 The establishment of the Dutch factory at Bandar Abbas . . . . .	22
2.2.3 The establishment of the French factory at Bandar Abbas . . . . .	23
2.3 Bandar Abbas at peace . . . . .	24

## CONTENTS

2.3.1	Period I (1623–1630) . . . . .	25
2.3.2	Period II (1630–1657) . . . . .	26
2.3.3	Period III (1657–1698) . . . . .	30
2.3.4	Period IV (1698–1708) . . . . .	30
2.3.5	Period V (1708–1736) . . . . .	32
2.3.6	Period VI (1736–1747) . . . . .	33
2.4	The Struggle for power (1746–1763) . . . . .	34
2.4.1	The beginning of the insurrection, 1746 . . . . .	35
2.4.1.1	Revolt at Sīstān . . . . .	35
2.4.1.2	Revolt in the ‘hot countries’ . . . . .	35
2.4.1.3	Revolt at Kirmān . . . . .	36
2.4.1.4	Revolt on the Persian coast . . . . .	36
2.4.1.5	Revolt in Oman . . . . .	36
2.4.2	The death of Nādir Shāh . . . . .	37
2.4.3	Struggles for the throne . . . . .	37
2.4.3.1	‘Alī Qulī Khān . . . . .	38
2.4.3.2	Ibrāhīm Mīrzā Khān . . . . .	38
2.4.3.3	Shāhrukh Mīrzā . . . . .	38
2.4.4	The struggle for overall control of Persia . . . . .	38
2.5	Capture by the French of the English factory at Bandar Abbas . . . . .	40
2.6	The ‘Commotion’ in the vicinity of Bandar Abbas . . . . .	41
2.6.1	Mullā ‘Alī Shāh, Nāṣir Khān, the Arabs and the English, 1750–1763 . . . . .	43
2.7	The withdrawal of the Dutch factory from Bandar Abbas . . . . .	50
2.8	The withdrawal of the English factory from Bandar Abbas . . . . .	51
2.8.1	Withdrawal to Bahrain, 1750 . . . . .	51
2.8.2	Withdrawal to Qishm, Hormuz or Bahrain, 1751 . . . . .	53
2.8.3	Withdrawal to Qishm or Henjam, 1752 . . . . .	55
2.8.4	Withdrawal to Hormuz, 1760 . . . . .	56
2.8.5	Withdrawal to any place of security, 1761 . . . . .	56
2.8.6	Trial of the Bushire market before commitment, 1762 . . . . .	57
2.9	The recession . . . . .	58
2.10	Factors in the withdrawal from Bandar Abbas . . . . .	61

CHAPTER 3: BANDAR RĪQ AND KHARK ISLAND (1753–1766)	63
3.0 Introduction	63
3.1 Geographical background	65
3.2 The Dutch establishment on Khark Island	69
3.3 ‘Commotion’ at Bandar Rīq	70
3.4 The English settlement at Bandar Rīq	72
3.5 The Dutch activity on Khark Island	75
3.6 The withdrawal of the English settlement from Bandar Rīq	78
3.7 The siege of Bandar Rīq	81
3.8 The end of the Dutch establishment on Khark	89
3.9 Conclusions on the cessation of trading at Bandar Rīq and Khark Island	96
CHAPTER 4: BUSHIRE IN TURMOIL (1762–1769)	98
4.0 Introduction	98
4.1 Geographical background	98
4.2 The English settlement at Bushire	99
4.3 English neutrality during the ‘Commotion’	103
4.4 The decline of trade at Bushire	112
4.5 Karīm Khān’s ‘disgust’ with the English	114
4.6 The expedition against Hormuz	119
4.7 The expedition against Khark Island	123
4.8 The expulsion of Mīr Muhannā from Khark Island	131
4.9 The withdrawal of the English settlement from Bushire	137
4.10 Factors in the withdrawal from Bushire	139
CHAPTER 5: BUSHIRE FROM TURMOIL TO PEACE (1769–1820)	143
5.0 Introduction	143
5.1 The English and Khark Island	143
5.2 The Persian attitude towards the English	148
5.2.1 Negotiations on resettling at Bushire	148
5.2.2 Piracy committed by the Persians	149
5.2.3 Persian extortions	154
5.2.4 The release of the Europeans from Persia	159

## CONTENTS

5.3	The re-establishment of the Bushire settlement . . . . .	162
5.4	Karīm Khān's last efforts . . . . .	163
5.5	Trade at Bushire from the time of its re-establishment up to the death of Karīm Khān, 1775–1779 . . . . .	166
5.6	The decline of the Zand dynasty, 1779–1794 . . . . .	167
5.7	Trade between the death of Karīm Khān (1779) and the downfall of the Zand dynasty (1795) . . . . .	169
5.8	The establishment of the Qājār dynasty, 1795–1799 . . . . .	172
5.8.1	Bushire's trade . . . . .	172
5.8.2	Basrah's trade . . . . .	173
5.8.3	Gulf trade . . . . .	175
5.9	The increase in the value of English trade with Bushire, 1800–1820 . . . . .	176
5.9.1	The missions . . . . .	176
5.9.2	Measures tending to boost trade . . . . .	178
5.10	The trade of Bushire at peace, 1800–1820 . . . . .	178
5.10.1	Bushire's imports from India . . . . .	178
5.10.2	Bushire's exports to India . . . . .	178
5.10.3	The trade of the Bushire factory . . . . .	178
5.10.4	East India Company trade with the Gulf, 1800–1820 . . . . .	182
5.11	Political factors in Bushire's trade . . . . .	182
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION . . . . .		185
6.0	Introduction . . . . .	185
6.1	The English withdrawal from Bandar Abbas, 1763 . . . . .	185
6.2	The withdrawal of the English settlement from Bandar Rīq, 1756 . . . . .	187
6.3	The withdrawal of the Dutch settlement from Khark Island, 1766 . . . . .	188
6.4	The withdrawal of the English settlement from Bushire, 1769 . . . . .	188
6.5	General conclusions . . . . .	190
Notes . . . . .		193
Select Bibliography . . . . .		214

## LIST OF TABLES

1.1	Employment of men and boats in pearling, early 19th century . . . . .	15
2.1	Dutch trade with Persia, 1680–1682 . . . . .	31
2.2	Expenses of the English settlement at Bandar Abbas, 1755–1760 . . . . .	60
4.1	The watering party on Kharku: casualty list . . . . .	131
4.2	Balance sheet for Bushire trading, July 1767–December 1768 . . . . .	140
5.1	Property found on Khark . . . . .	147
5.2	Bushire trade in 1776 . . . . .	166
5.3	Imports of broadcloth to Basrah and Bushire, 1777 . . . . .	167
5.4	Summary of goods exported from Bombay to Bushire, 1787–1792 . . . . .	170
5.5	Kirmān wool exported from Bushire to Bombay, 1790–1795 . . . . .	171
5.6	Summary of goods exported from Bombay to Basrah, 1787–1792 . . . . .	171
5.7	Costing of European copper, 1791–1796 . . . . .	173
5.8	European copper imported and sold, 1791–1796 . . . . .	174
5.9	Pricing of Basrah copper, 1791–1796 . . . . .	174
5.10	East India Company trade between Surat and the Gulf, 1794–1799 . . . . .	175
5.11	Native merchant trade between Surat and the Gulf, 1794–1799 . . . . .	175
5.12	Cloth ordered by Bushire, 1800 . . . . .	179
5.13	Estimate of goods required in Bushire, 1801–1804 . . . . .	179
5.14	Bushire factory accounts—Debits . . . . .	179
5.15	Bushire factory accounts—Credits . . . . .	180
5.16	Prices of goods on the market at Bushire, 1812 . . . . .	181
5.17	Prices of goods saleable at Bushire, 1812 . . . . .	181
5.18	Value of EIC exports to the Gulf, 1801–1811 . . . . .	182