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Portuguese Oceanic Expansion, 1400–1800

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thoughtful, and his byline bears watching. The astute reader may conclude that Raman was not well served by his publisher.

Despite these obstacles, the book is worth reading. Raman provides an interesting view from India on critical past and current U.S. policies, from our long-term support for Pakistan to relations with China, to the current global conflict on terrorism. He outlines several instances of R&AW working with the CIA to counter Chinese moves, while at the same time claiming that the CIA was working against India—sometimes with Pakistan, sometimes not. While expressing a fondness for the American people, Raman is definitely no fan of the U.S. State Department. Curiously, he displays no animosity for the CIA, despite his claims that the agency engineered a key defection and conducted “psywar” campaigns against India. But perhaps the lack of rancor is explained by a story that Raman could not tell.

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Bethencourt, Francisco, and Diogo Ramada Curto, eds. *Portuguese Oceanic Expansion, 1400–1800*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2007. 536pp. \$34.95

Globalization, as a form of worldwide economic expansion and global interaction, can trace its origins back more than five hundred years to the expansion of Europe and to the first European maritime empire, established by Portugal. From this beginning, the story of globalization is traced through the

better-known eras of Spanish, Dutch, French, and British maritime dominance to our present modern phase of more sophisticated global interaction. Although the earlier maritime empires were based on separate, competing maritime economies rather than the current ideal of a single global economy, these earlier examples of development are important to understand in terms of their limitations and successes. Among these maritime empires, the history of Portugal’s contribution has been the least well known to the anglophone world.

Two recent important anniversaries have brought Portugal’s role to wider attention. The first occurred in 1998 to mark the five-hundredth anniversary of Vasco da Gama’s pioneering voyage around the Cape of Good Hope and across the Indian Ocean in the first European direct sea voyage to India. The second was in 2000, commemorating the five-hundredth anniversary of the first landing in and subsequent colonization of Brazil by Portugal. In connection with these anniversaries, the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University in Rhode Island became the locus for a major attempt to make available to English-language readers an up-to-date and wide-ranging analysis of Portugal’s early contribution to oceanic expansion. The fruit of that effort may be found in this volume, providing a major update of scholarly interpretations. The chapters in this edited collection cover a wide range of topics. The book’s fourteen chapters, each by a different author, are distributed into four parts. The first part examines economics and society, focusing on such themes as markets, economic networks, costs, and financial trends. The second deals with

politics and institutions, looking at patterns of settlement, political configurations in relation to local powers, and the role and structure of the Catholic Church in the context of global expansion. The third is devoted to the cultural world, examining the interaction of cultures and the creation of an imperial and colonial culture, as well as the wider world's influences on the Portuguese language, literature, and the arts, with the roles of science and technology as a key element in oceanic expansion. The fourth part, entitled "The Comparative Dimension," is a masterful single chapter by Felipe Fernández-Armesto that summarizes how "Portuguese expansion carried the 'seeds of change' that transformed so many environments and reversed the age-old pattern of evolution."

The naval readers of this journal may relate most easily to the essay by maritime historian Francisco Contente Domingues, "Science and Technology in Portuguese Navigation: The Idea of Experience in the Sixteenth Century." In his interesting historical analysis, Domingues shows how the direct personal experience of Portuguese

mariners who navigated to other parts of the globe had a major effect in dismantling the preconceptions inherited from the ancient classic writers. The direct observations that mariners made while voyaging on new seas and seeing new stars, new lands, and new peoples provided the basis for the idea that a new era in the world had begun and, in the sixteenth-century context, stimulated much new learning. Thus, Domingues shows the origins and rationale for the mariner's now long-standing penchant for direct experience over book learning.

The world of Portugal's oceanic empire is a distant one, distinctly foreign to that of our own time. Yet despite the vast differences and contrasts between the Portuguese oceanic empire and our own time, this volume allows a reader to contemplate the very wide range of issues that this early example of global reach involved. Here one can find a range of examples of justification, reform, critique, and resistance, intermixed with and tied to the broad issues of war and peace.

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