

GLOBALIZATION CASE STUDY

OMAN



SULTANATE OF OMAN



“A country can not change where it is, but connectivity offers an alternative to geography.”
--Parag Khanna

INDIAN OCEAN

- History of Oman shaped by location on Strait of Hormuz
- Narrow sea passage between Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.
- One of most important waterways in world due to importance of oil exports from Persian Gulf.
- Strategic location of Oman: all ports have direct access to Indian Ocean



INDIAN OCEAN

- With increased demand for dates, slavery becomes important in Omani economics
- Oman dominated slave trade
- Ran empire off Swahili coast in East Africa
- Zanzibar dominated trade in ivory and slaves



FRANKINCENSE: INCENSE HIGHWAY

- **Basis for economic existence and shipping routes**
- **Area of Dhofar (Oman) and Yemen exported tons of resin to Roman Empire in Mediterranean**
- **Returned with precious gems, ivory, ostrich feathers**

Dhow ships would travel toward entrance of Red Sea and return months later after winds shifted



FRAKINCENSE: USES

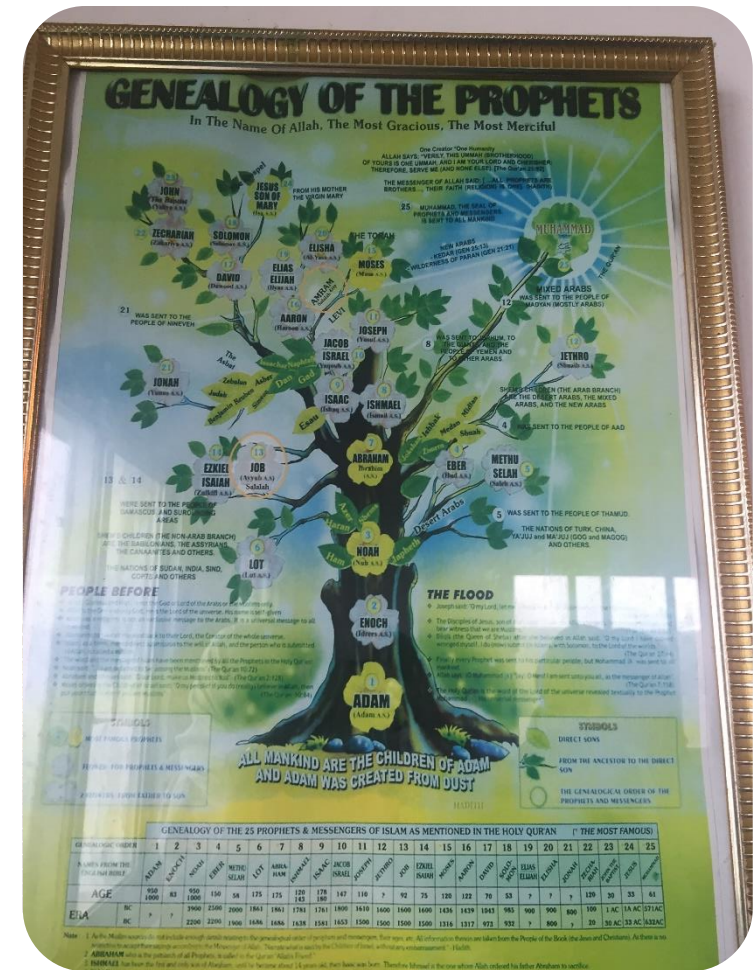


- Freshen clothing
- Treat illnesses
- Thought to remedy evil spirits
- Used to embalm pharaohs (found in King Tut's tomb)



MUSLIM TRADING SYSTEM

- Encouraged networking
- Centers around community:
Communal prayer, family,
unifying cultural elements,
- Hajj-quintessential symbol of
Islamic community
- Through trade, converted new
followers
- Central to globalization process



DATE PRODUCTION



- Pre-oil society: Dates dominated
 - Brought wealth to Arabian economy
 - Main source of sweetener prior to arrival of cane sugar
 - “Mystic East” Advertising campaign brought Arabia to Western consciousness
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- Staple food
 - Major export item
 - Until oil discovery, date production provided major source of revenue
 - Caused over-reliance on international markets

INDIAN OCEAN: DHOW PORTS



- Locate Oman and Zanzibar on the map
- Predict why Oman would take an interest in this small island (Think of social, political, economic benefits)

ZANZIBAR TIES



- Antislavery Treaty (1845) signed with British prohibited export of slaves to Arabia
- Slavery still legal on Zanzibar
- Oman relied heavily on clove plantations and slave labor on plantations
- Eventual collapse of clove market led to growing coconuts
- More Omani Arabs moved to Zanzibar and several intermarried with Zanzibaris

INDIAN OCEAN

- 1832: Oman's sultan moved to Zanzibar to rule on Arabian Peninsula
- Moved entire court and family 2,200 miles away from Muscat to Zanzibar

- Prominent merchants and traders moved from Muscat to take advantage of the favorable trade conditions established by the Sultan



“Zanzibar is African, yet different from Africa. It is Arabian and Persian, yet different from Arabia and Persia: and Indian, yet different from India.”

--Ismail Jussa



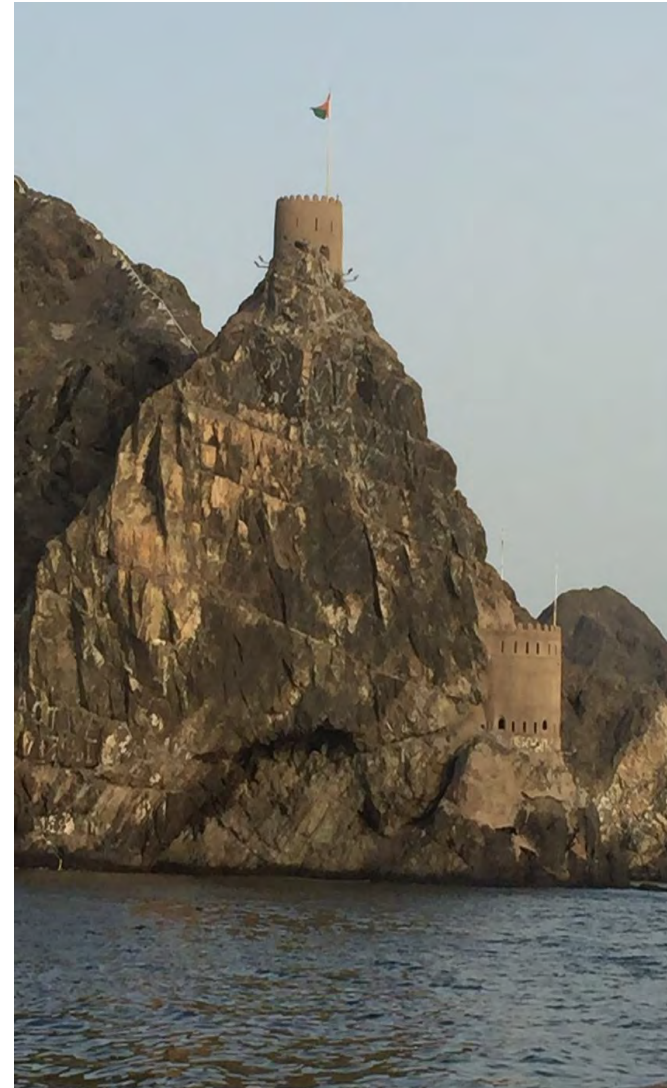
FORTS AS SYMBOLS OF NATIONALISM

Bahla Fort sits on hill above Ad Dakhiliyah

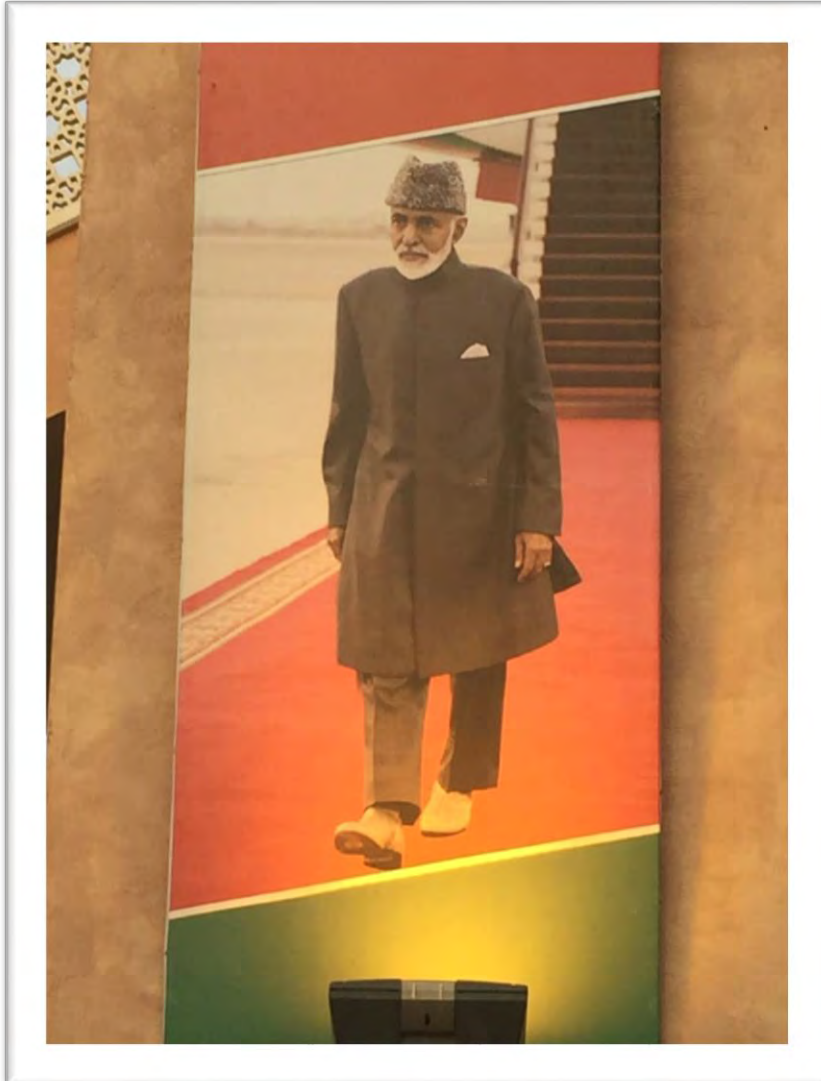
Ad Dakhiliyah



EVIDENCE OF COLONIALISM



OMAN'S REAWAKENING



- 1970: Dramatic shift from isolation to poverty
- Sultan Qaboos bin Said overthrew his father in palace coup d'état
- Encouraged Omanis in Zanzibar to come home
- New state developed infrastructure

NATIONALISM



- August 9, 1970-Sultan Qaboos announced the new name of Oman in a radio broadcast
- Introduced new flag
- Laid out plan for social and economic reform in Oman
- In attempt to stimulate economy, asked Omanis who lived abroad to return home and contribute in their new country.

TRADITION AS NATIONAL IDENTITY



- “Omanisation”
- Education used to instill Omani citizenship
- Compulsory religious studies from 1st-12th grades
- Cultural symbols like clothing and architecture are used to identify Omani culture.

Khanjar: traditional Omani dagger worn for ornamental Purpose. The Khanjar pictured was quite expensive and not for sale!.

CLOTHING AS NATIONAL SYMBOL



CLOTHING AS SYMBOL OF NATIONALISM



POPULATION

- Due to Omani's historical participation in trade across the Indian Ocean, modern Oman is diverse
- Connections to UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Yemen (historically, the borders were quite fluid with people moving freely across borders)
- Omanis with East African origin live through the country
- Large Indian population that originally came in 15th century as merchants
- Many migrant workers from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India



Ruwi: Muscat's "Little India" district



1/3 of Oman's population derive from India.

MODERN OMAN ON THE SURFACE

Tradition

- Ruled by hereditary monarchy
- Traditional dress
- Religion influences social life

Modern

- Busy freeways
- Consumer goods
- Widespread use of Internet
- Industrialization

MODERN OMAN

- Oman has long been a participant in the global trade network
- Much of Oman's traditions are part of Oman's rich history that reflect Oman's unique modernity.
- Negotiate place of religion in world of global secularism

MODERN OMAN



FUTURE OF OMAN

- 1995: Sultan Qaboos—nearly fatal car accident
- Question of who will be his heir when he dies
- Oman's oil reserves-limited
- Question of who will continue the legacy of the Sultanate of Oman's "Founding Father"

